Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-101
Tuesday
26 May 1992

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Afghanistan

Defense Minister Mas'ud and Hezb-e Eslami leader Hekmatyar issued a joint statement 25 May announcing that opposition forces will pull out of Kabul immediately and that elections will take place in six months, AFP reported. The statement said the two-month term of interim President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi would not be extended. A joint commission will be formed to organize the election, Tehran radio added.

India

The government summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires to protest the "abduction" of one of its diplomats in Islamabad, Delhi radio reported. The diplomat, a High Commission counselor, turned up at a police station in Islamabad with evidence of electric-shock torture, according to the radio. Delhi accused Islamabad of concocting a "totally fabricated charge" of espionage against the diplomat, who was declared persona non grata in Pakistan. In a related development, the government expelled two senior Pakistani diplomats, Delhi radio noted.

Pakistan

The government declared an Indian High Commission official persona non grata after he was "caught" collecting classified documents from a Pakistani citizen, Islamabad radio disclosed. Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman expressed "regret" at India's decision to expel two senior Pakistani diplomats, Delhi International reported.

Israel

The fatal stabbing of a girl in Bat Yam by an Arab on 24 May sparked reactions throughout the country, including riots in Tel Aviv in which five Arabs were injured, according to Jerusalem radio. Criticism against the government by parties on both the left and right were carried by Jerusalem International, while Jerusalem radio quoted Prime Minister Shamir as saying the perpetrator "should have been shot."

Iraq

The Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan received approximately the same number of votes in the Kurdish elections, according to an AFP report citing an election official. The two parties will "share out equally" 100 of the 105 seats in the new assembly, and a runoff election for the presidency will take place, the press agency reported. Meanwhile, People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan leader Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman was reported to be in critical condition after being wounded in an assassination attempt 15 May, according to AL-THAWRAH. In another development, "sources" in Paris revealed a that new Iraqi terrorist organization called "Muslims' Vengeance" has been created to destablilize the Gulf region, according to MENA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Criticizes Israeli Actions

Condemns Lebanon Strikes

NC2405122892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The Arab League today condemned Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon. The League said it follows with grave concern Israel's aggressive acts against Lebanon. The Israeli occupation forces continue to shell the villages and regions of southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' for the sixth day, which has resulted in a large number of innocent victims. The Arab League issued a statement today confirming this position.

The Arab League asked the international community to take the necessary measures to stop this aggression and force Israel to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, foremost of which is Security Council Resolution 425.

Heightened Settlement Activity Noted

NC2405153992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1443 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—The Arab League condemned the settlement-building policy Israel is following in the occupied territories.

In this regard, it affirmed the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and reorganization of the demographic structure of the Arab areas in Israel despite the ongoing peace negotiations.

An Arab League news bulletin stated today that Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip increased in 1991 by 60 percent.

The bulletin issued by the Arab League stated that according to Israeli statistics, over 13,500 housing units have been built this year in the occupied territories—contrasting to approximately 20,000 housing units built between 1967 and 1990.

It stated that Ambassador Muhammad al-Farra—Arab League assistant secretary general—will hold a news conference tomorrow and will present a report on the Israeli settlements and all the other developments that harm the occupied territories.

U.S. Plan To 'Spirit' Kurdish Records Cited

JN2205185292 [Editorial Report]

[Editorial Report] Amman JORDAN TIMES in English on 19 May on its front page carries a REUTER-attributed report from Salah al-Din in Iraq on Kurdish elections and the alleged U.S. plan to "spirit" government records out of northern Iraq and into Turkey.

The REUTER report appears in the JORDAN TIMES, in part, as follows:

"Kurdish officials said a press report of a U.S. secret plan to spirit government records out of northern Iraq might jeopardise their campaign to document torture and executions by the Army.

"The NEW YORK TIMES said on Sunday a special U.S. military unit would enter northern Iraq, collect and take to Turkey 30 tonnes of documents that Kurdish groups seized from Iraq police during their abortive rebellion last year.

"'This was supposed to be done discreetly,' Hosayn Zebari [name as published], spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party said on Monday. 'I do not know why it was publicised.'

"The NEW YORK TIMES quoted U.S. Government officials as saying the Pentagon authorized the use of U.S. military aircraft and ground transport last week.

"But Kurdish sources and Western human rights activists said the report was premature. They insisted that plans for the transport of the documents had not yet been finalized."

Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic carries the same REUTER report in its 19 May edition on pages 1 and 16.

As of filing time, no other Jordanian media monitored at Amman bureau have been observed to report or comment on the NEW YORK TIMES report.

Also, as of filing time, no Iraqi media monitored at Jordan Bureau have been observed to report or comment on the report.

Further as warranted.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Exchange Messages

NC2405181092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak sent a message today to brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. Dr. Usamah al-Baz—Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs—conveyed the message during his meeting with Col. al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli today.

Al-Baz also held talks today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently in Tripoli. Talks dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East and the increasing Israeli repression in the occupied Arab territories.

President 'Arafat gave Dr. al-Baz a message for President Mubarak.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns 'Unjust Israeli Aggressions'

LD2505004392 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2157 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Jeddah, 5 May (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] strongly condemned the unjust Israeli aggressions on Lebanese territory that have led to dozens of steadfast Lebanese citizens being killed or wounded, additional destruction, and the displacement of thousands of Lebanese citizens.

This came in a statement issued by the ICO in which it makes it clear that the continuation of these aggressions by Israel and its refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 425—which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanese territory—constitute a challenge to international resolutions and conventions.

The organization stresses the Islamic nation's will to stand by Lebanon as well as its sympathy and solidarity with the Lebanese people in their just struggle to liberate their territory.

It also made it clear that the Israeli aggressions on Lebanese territory aggravate tension and instability in the Middle East region and constitute a serious threat to the peace process, which is aimed at finding a just and comprehensive settlement to the issue of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Palestinian Affairs

Hizballah Issues Statement on Jordan Valley Attack

JN2405181292 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 May 92

[Statement issued by the "Hizballah Command in Palestine;" date not given.]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

After relying on God, martyr Habis Abu-Dahuk's group from the missiles unit of the Hizballah Forces in Palestine shelled a settlement and a camp of the Zionist Army in the Jordan Valley area of (Kfar Sa'd Battah) at 0330, Friday, 22 May 1992. Fires were seen in the camp, and Zionist helicopters and ambulances rushed to the scene. Enemy forces then illuminated the area and blanketed nearby woods and valleys with mortar shells and medium weapons. Our mujahidin returned safely to base with God's help.

The operation was conducted in retaliation for the enemy's crimes in the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip and for shelling the villages of our people in southern Lebanon and al-Biqa.' We pledge to God that we will continue the march of jihad despite the Zionist enemy and the United States and their capitulationist agents. And the unjust assailants will soon know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Hizballah Forces Command, Palestine

Hamas Urges 'Comprehensive Confrontation'

JN2505125392 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1020 GMT 25 May 92

["Call" by the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas to "our hero kinfolk and righteous soldiers in Gaza" and "every rebellious Palestinian city, village, and camp" carried within "The Event" program on 25 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Our hero mujahidin kinfolk: Your treacherous Zionist enemy once again tried its bad luck by challenging your staunch will and by confronting the blazing Palestinian fire and fury. Backed by all the lethal U.S. weapons, your enemy decided to storm your cities, villages, and camps with all its known brutality. Your deadly blows have made the enemy lose its senses. Its soldiers have become groups of demented people who open fire in all directions to kill children, women, and the elderly while they flee when confronted by young men who face them with the most rudimentary weapons.

Our heroic kinfolk and righteous young men: These are your days, the days of the sacred Palestinian wrath, the days of Palestinian vengeance from the treacherous Zionist usurpers, the days of confrontation. Let us hold hands and close ranks. Let the hearts of the mujahidin and the strugglers unite to confront the occupation. Let us renew the pledge to God to avenge the blood of the three martyrs, the sons of the heroic 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalion, the sons of your movement, the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas. Our kinfolk: Let us avenge the blood of hero martyr Marwan al-Zayigh, the son of the al-Tuffah quarter in Gaza. Our kinfolk: Let us avenge the blood of hero martyr Yasir al-Hasanat, the son of al-Nusayrat camp. Our kinfolk: Let us avenge the blood of hero martyr Muhammad Qandil, the son of al-Maghazi camp.

Let us proclaim it a wrathful and comprehensive confrontation against the aliens and the thieves of the land and the forgers of history. Let us loudly say that there will be no peace with the occupiers, the usurpers, and the terrorists whose criminal and terrorist leader announced yesterday that anyone who confronts them is virtually dead although he remains alive. It is the slogan raised by our Zionist enemy—an enemy that also says that a good Palestinian is a dead Palestinian. What peace do these people want after this?

Our angry kinfolk, the hero stone-throwers, youths and men: Rise for the day of vengeance against the usurper enemy and the criminal occupiers. Rise for the day of the comprehensive confrontation, the day of martyrdom and martyrs, the day of triumphing over the calls for humiliation and defeatism, the calls to trust the mirage of peace and the suspect calls that seek to halt our blessed intifadah.

Greetings to you, O militant Palestinian brother in every Palestinian city, village, and camp. Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you be victorious over them, heal the breast of believers. [Koranic verse]

God is great, and victory for our militant people.

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas, Palestine

'Arafat Meets With al-Qadhdhafi 24 May

LD2405182292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]—the brother leader and president of the State of Palestine—met with his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September revolution, in Tripoli yesterday.

During the meeting, they reviewed conditions and developments in the occupied areas and the gallant intifadah and ways to maintain its continuation and its development. They also discussed the political situation and the latest developments in the crisis that the United States is trying to impose on the Libyan Jamahiriyah. It was agreed to step up political action to realize more achievements on all fronts.

It is worth recalling that brother President Abu-'Ammar arrived in Tripoli yesterday from Tunis.

OPEC Affairs

Oil, Energy Ministers Continue 91st Conference

Production Ceiling To Be Maintained

LD2205202392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1851 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Vienna, 22 May (KUNA)—The OPEC oil and energy ministers agreed at their meeting here today to continue to apply the current production ceiling—which amounts to 22,982,000 barrels per day—for the third quarter of this year and to allow an additional increase in production for the State of Kuwait, without any limitation to the allowance period or to the size of the increase.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Hamud al-Ruqbah told KUNA that the agreement also provides for the convening of an OPEC meeting on 16 September in Geneva to discuss the situation in the light of developments until that date.

The agreement recommends that the OPEC chairman call for the convening of the meeting before 16 September, should developments in the market require the holding of such a meeting.

Dr. al-Ruqbah described this agreement as being "good," saying that "it will lead to improved prices."

He added that this agreement is also good for Kuwait, which has been given the right to produce any amount it wants without any limitation to the time limit for the third or fourth quarter of this year.

The Kuwaiti oil minister said this agreement is also positive and good for the market.

He said that coordination during this conference was good between the Kuwaiti delegation, the delegations of fraternal countries, and those of the other countries of the organization, which contributed toward the success of the conference by arriving at an agreement. This agreement provides for maintaining the current production ceiling, stipulated by last February's agreement, which amounts to 22,982,000 barrels per day, with the registration of reservations by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The agreement also allows in its second article for any additional increase in the production of the State of Kuwait. It also provides for the chairman of the ministerial conference, the UAE Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Yusuf bin 'Umayr al- Yusuf, to invite the ministerial committee charged with overseeing production to meet, should developments in the market require it.

The agreement also renewed the need to adhere to the spirit of the agreement that was concluded in July 1990 and to continue providing the OPEC Secretariat with statistics on the member countries' production levels as soon as possible.

Meeting Ends; Press Release Issued

LD2205213192 Vienna OPECNA in English 2005 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Vienna, 22 May 92 (OPECNA)—At the end today of the 91st meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which was held in Vienna, Austria, 21-22 May 92, the following press release was issued: The conference unanimously elected HE [His Excellency] Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin- Yusuf, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and head of its delegation, as its president. HE 'Abd-'al-'Aziz Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, minister of interior, acting minister of finance and petroleum of Qatar and head of its delegation, was unanimously elected alternate president.

The conference reviewed the secretary general's report and the report of the economic commission board.

After reviewing the report on the world economy and oil market developments, the conference decided to roll over into the third quarter of this year, the February 1992 production agreement of 22.982 mb/d [millions barrels per day], inclusive of the reservations of both the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The conference also decided to allow for any additional production from Kuwait, further, that the president of the conference may call for a meeting of the ministerial monitoring committee, if warranted by market developments. The delegation of Iraq rejected the resolution adopted.

The conference restated its commitment to the essence of the entire provisions of the July 1990 agreement and decided that member countries should continue to promptly report actual production levels to the secretariat, as agreed.

The conference decided to convene a meeting of the ministerial monitoring committee in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 September 1992, in order to decide on the production levels for the fourth quarter 1992.

The conference expressed its appreciation to the government of the Federal Republic of Austria and to the authorities of the city of Vienna for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

The conference passed resolutions which will be published on 22 June 1992, after ratification by member countries.

The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened in Vienna, Austria, on 25 November 1992.

Algeria

Armed Groups Clash With Gendarmerie, Army

1 Killed, 10 Detained in Lakhdaria

LD2305124192 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 May 92

[Excerpt] Algiers, 23 May 1992—[passage omitted] It has been learned from an authorized source that a member of a wanted armed group was killed and 10 other persons detained during clashes on Wednesday with units of the National Gendarmerie and special forces of the National People's Army in a mountainous region in Lakhdaria, 60 kilometers to the east of Algiers.

The same source made it clear that search operations "will intensify" to find another seven members of this group, who are still on the run. This clash resulted in the death of one person and the light wounding of two members of the National Gendarmerie.

The same source said that five arms caches, a significant quantity of ammunition, various equipment, and Afghani clothes were discovered.

Moreover, three men armed with automatic weapons, an automatic gun, and a shotgun were detained by the National Gendarmerie in Meftah, in Blida Province on the same day.

Also in Blida Province, two persons armed with two automatic rifles in the center of the city of Chebli attacked a truck of the G5 type, owned by a health dispenser.

Press sources stated that an armed group on board a type G5 truck attacked the Draria police station in Tipasa Province on Wednesday and killed one policeman.

43 Arrested in Chebli

LD2305124792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] The security situation is still tense in a number of the country's regions. More details with Ali Aboud.

[Aboud] The National Gendarmerie Command affirmed today to national radio that 10 armed people were apprehended, and one person and one gendarme were killed in an armed clash in the outskirts of Lakhdaria, in the Wilaya of Bouira [about 100 miles east of Algiers]. The Command asserted, furthermore, that the search for the rest of the armed group is continuing.

At Chebli, one person was killed and another 43 persons were arrested, among whom was the main agitator, who is from Hussein Dey [in Algiers], following a scuffle between a group of people and the gendarmerie in Chebli, in the Wilaya of Blida. The scuffle took place when a group of people opposed the appointment of a new imam by the inspector of religious affairs at one of Chebli's mosques before Friday prayers.

The National Gendarmerie Service was recently able to disband a wicked group of people who were involved in robbery and car theft. The above gang, which included nine persons, was active in a number of regions in the west of the country and used to make changes to cars before selling them with false papers. Members of the gang under arrest are now under preventive detention; they are charged with selling 11 stolen cars as well as robbing a number of houses and stores.

Three Killed in Clash With Army

LD2305201992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] An authorized source has stated that three people belonging to an armed group consisting of six people were killed during a clash this evening with a special task force of the National People's Army and the gendarmerie at Djebel Zoubourbour, 50 kilometers south of Lakhdaria. A search is going on for the other three who fled.

35 'Armed Group' Members Arrested

LD2405223192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] It has been learned from national gendarmerie sources that 35 people were arrested in the town of Lakhdaria at midday today for involvement with an armed group. The same source added that two of the three people who were able to escape yesterday after the clash which took place in the same region between gendarmes backed by special army forces and the elements of the armed group, may have been injured, and three elements of the armed group were killed during the same clash.

10 Arms Caches Discovered

LD2605071792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] It was announced yesterday that 10 arms caches were discovered in the area of Zbarbar in Lakhdaria, a town 80 kilometers east of the capital. Special units of the national people's army and the gendarmerie have been engaged for days in extensive combing operations of the area.

A clash took place in the area with an armed group. Three members of the group were killed. The rest were able to escape. They are being sought at present.

In addition, 35 people were arrested. They are accused of collusion with the armed group. They were shown on television yesterday. Two of those arrested—a Koran teacher and a mayor's aide—addressed an appeal to the members of this group which has been hiding in the Lakhdaria area to give up their weapons and stop the bloodshed.

Formation, Revival of Political Blocs Viewed

LD2205142092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 May 92

[Excerpts] After the slackness witnessed in activities of the political parties since the beginning of this year, which

coincided with the formation of the Higher State Council, political life started to revive.

This revival became particularly apparent with the materialization of the features of the Patriotic Rally called for by Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf.

There is something noteworthy in the reviving activities of the parties. It is the collective action in the shape of axes or blocs. The Bloc of Seven; the Bloc of 13; and lastly the Bloc of National Fundamentals. [passage omitted]

The parties' tendency to form blocs under the current circumstances makes the various circles believe that the majority of the groups are afraid of being removed after the establishment of the Patriotic Rally called for by Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf.

The stances of some parties toward this rally are governed by reservation. This also applies to the Bloc of National Fundamentals.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified voice] We said, and we are still saying, that the Patriotic Rally called for by Mr. Boudiaf is still under study. Therefore, we do not judge the unknown. We will wait for this new development, then we will talk about it when it appears. We are, therefore, neither for nor against it. But as an idea under the name of patriotism it is acceptable in principle pending what will emerge from it. [end recording]

Yesterday, the Bloc of the National Fundamentals issued a list of a number of points, the most prominent of which called for freedom of information; lifting the government monopoly of the National television; and allowing everyone to express his opinion.

Egypt

Mubarak Cited on Internal Stability, Libya

NC2405151592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1348 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Asyut, 24 May (MENA)—President Mubarak stressed today the importance of stability in Egypt for overcoming all of the internal problems, and he noted that achieving stability is the responsibility of the whole society.

During his meeting with public and executive leaders in Asyut Governorate today, the president said that a strong and sound economy means a strong and stable Egypt capable of preserving its sovereignty and dignity and performing its Arab responsibilities.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak noted the need for stability in Egypt and said that stability is important and fundamental for the country so that we can overcome all our problems. Mubarak asserted that world countries stand by and support stable states.

In his meeting, President Mubarak touched on the way the international press and some local party newspapers handle and portray certain normal events by exaggerating them in an attempt to distort the image of stability Egypt enjoys, which, he pointed out, reflects negatively on investment, capital coming into the country, and tourism. He clarified that these attempts, whether by the international press or local party newspapers, are prejudiced.

He explained that stability is the responsibility of every citizen in Egypt, for the sake of the present and future. It is the responsibility of all of society. The responsibility of society stems from this point to eliminate all attempts at sedition or terrorizing society so that Egypt can continue to be an oasis of security and peace.

President Mubarak explained the positive results of Egypt's relations with the outside world. He highlighted the enormous effort exerted to establish strong relations based on respect, which led the international community to support Egypt's political and economic issues.

President Mubarak said: We need to preserve stability in our country, reform our economy, and maintain the propelling force of the economic reform march. We also need to keep our relations balanced and correct with the outside world—East, West, North, and South. He confirmed that strong and firm relations link Egypt with the outside world—be it the European countries, the United States, or the commonwealth countries—and relations with the Arab, African, and Islamic countries are excellent.

President Mubarak said that one of the results of these relations, out of appreciation for Egypt's position about issues of peace and justice, was the cancellation of Egypt's military debts to the United States and a large part of its civilian debts in accordance with the agreement signed with international financial institutions.

Regarding the economic situation, President Mubarak explained the effects on Egypt's economy of the successive wars Egypt has fought and the halt in work, projects, and reform of the basic structure. He used various facts from the economy and services as examples of the tangible reality during those times.

President Mubarak clarified the results of the economic conference and scientific studies that imposed the same fact, the urgent need to start the economic reform program.

He said: Since I took office, my first and foremost goal has been and remains economic reform. My objective and hope was to ease debts so that the coming generations would be liberated from the debts' burdens and responsibilities.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak stated that had Egypt not secured the elements of political, economic, military, and cultural power, it would not have been able

to take the lofty position it took in the Gulf crisis, resolutely opposing Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, and rectify that grave error.

He said that the president noted that the entire world waited for Egypt's decision. Egypt made the decision that stemmed from its will, namely, it supported right against falsehood. The president affirmed that the decision was a nationalist Arab one that expressed values and principles and rejected the occupation of a fraternal Arab state by another Arab state.

President Mubarak denied that this position was dictated to Egypt and said: Shame on anyone who claims that Egypt's position was dictated to it, because Egypt is the greatest Arab state and decisions cannot be dictated to it. All those who fake history must awaken from their sick illusions.

Al-Sharif said that the president explained the facts about the Gulf crisis in detail and said that whoever tries to falsify history, distort facts, claim positions, and imagine that by publishing a book or buying a writer will spare himself history's judgement is deluding himself.

Regarding published cases of corruption, President Mubarak said that there are fewer cases of deviation and corruption in Egypt than in other states, but its media and publications are freer than in other states and nothing is kept from the people.

He emphasized that corruption or deviation, whether financial or moral, will not be covered up. He said: As the media and the press enjoy complete freedom, I hope that the desired balance will be maintained between responsible freedom and the preservation of the image and reputation of the homeland and society.

Regarding Egypt's position about the Libyan-Western crisis, President Mubarak said that any decision must be in the interest of the people who bear responsibility for it. He said that any decision must be studied and not taken rashly.

He added that Egypt has stood on the side of the Libyan people and has exerted and continues to exert every effort by virtue of its international influence, relations, and contacts.

President Mubarak added that Egypt declared its position, rejected the use of force, and mitigated the sharpness of the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council against Libya, proceeding from the credibility and respect it enjoys in the international community.

He affirmed in this respect that history will record Egypt's strong and rational position for attaining stability in the region and the interests of the region's people.

Reviewing Egypt's role in the Libyan crisis with the West before the popular conference in Asyut, President Mubarak said we are exerting our utmost efforts to bring viewpoints closer and overcome difficulties between the parties. He added: We do not, however, impose our opinion or interfere in making decisions that Libya must make itself.

He added: Our position before the world is strong, and people listen to what we say. From the outset, we stood alongside international legitimacy and respected the international organization's resolutions.

He affirmed that Egypt's position rejecting terrorism in all its forms is clear. About what some newspapers reported concerning unity with Libya, President Mubarak said that unity imposed from above will be rejected by the bases, but unity imposed by the people will endure.

He added that every ruler and official must then submit to the will of the people. President Mubarak added: Undoubtedly, both people of Egypt and Libya welcome unity if the healthy climate is available for it. Unity is not something imposed by circumstances or to find a way out of a crisis; unity is what the people aspire to and what their will dictates.

Regarding what was published about disputes in Asyut, President Mubarak affirmed his confidence that the people of Asyut apply a high standard of morality, adhere to principles, and condemn any dispute.

He said: I am confident that the spirit of love will triumph and prevail. Public interest will be placed high above all other considerations. Asyut's people are always used as an example of a people who protect and preserve values, principles, and national unity.

President Mubarak added that if a rumor is spread regarding our national unity, it is the duty of all of us to confront and correct it.

Musa Meets With Israel's Levi in Lisbon

NC2405204492 Cairo MENA in English 2040 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Lisbon, May 24 (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met here today with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi on the sidelines of the follow-up conference on coordinating assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The meeting, which was held before the Israeli minister's departure for Paris, dealt with developments of the bilateral peace talks and the outcome of the meetings of the working groups stemming from the multilateral conference on Middle East Peace.

Foreign Ministry Denounces Israeli Lebanon Attacks

NC2605104892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Egypt denounced Israel's air attacks and indiscriminate artillery shelling in southern Lebanon and called on Israel to immediately stop all attacks on Lebanese territory.

A Foreign Ministry official statement issued today read that these attacks violate all international charters and human rights principles regarding the protection of defenseless civilians. Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon is a frank and persistent violation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Egypt appeals to the international community represented by the United Nations to take all measures to confront the aggression and save innocent civilians. It calls on both cosponsors of the peace process to continue to support the peace efforts without being influenced by the general atmosphere surrounding them.

Musa, Baker Discuss Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mideast

NC2405180492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Lisbon, 24 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stressed the importance of an immediate cease-fire in Bosnia-Hercegovina, as well as the need to open the airport in Sarajevo to allow medical aid and foodstuffs to be distributed to its people.

Musa stressed Egypt's position calling for an end to the massacre of the innocent Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and the immediate withdrawal of the Yugoslav Federal Army from its territory. He also stressed Egypt's readiness to participate in any serious international effort to realize these goals.

Mr. Baker briefed Musa on the activities and measures the United States has taken or will take in the near future to escalate U.S. and international pressure on Serbia to stop interfering in Bosnia-Hercegovina's affairs.

During the meeting, they also evaluated the peace process in the Middle East and the meeting of the working committees that branched off from the Moscow multilateral conference, as well as the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks.

The situation in Lebanon and efforts to implement the al-Ta'if agreement were also discussed.

Armenian President Arrives for 3-Day Visit

NC2605112492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan arrived in Cairo today for an official three-day visit at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

He was met at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Libya

Al-Baz, Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Discuss 'Crisis'

NC2405075192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0728 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tripoli, 24 May (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met with Dr. Usamah al-Baz—Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs—who arrived in Tripoli last night.

Following the meeting, Dr. al-Baz said he conveyed to Col. al-Qadhdhafi a message from President Husni Mubarak as part of the constant consultations between both countries' leaderships about the current crisis between Libya and the West.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. al-Baz said discussions also dealt with other Arab issues.

UN Embargo-Related Hajj Restrictions Condemned

Preachers Denounce 'Western Crusaders'

LD2305101192 Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' 23, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Preachers at mosques throughout the Great Jamahiriyah condemned in their Friday speeches yesterday the Western Christian measures preventing the Muslim Libyan Arab people from peforming pilgrimage duty this year.

Preachers pointed out the Christian hatred being practiced by the Western crusaders against the Arab nation and Muslim peoples while no coercive measures were applied against the Zionist enemy.

They deplored the West's claims of respect for religious and individual freedoms while it practices tyranny, oppression and religious persecution against Muslims the world over.

Resolution 748 Protested

LD2305080992 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Following Friday prayers, masses in Gharyan staged today an angry demonstration against the groundless NATO [as heard] resolution number 748 and against preventing Libyan citizens from carrying out their pilgrimage and minor pilgrimage because of this resolution. The masses participating in the demonstration shouted slogans that rejected American hegemony and stressed their intention to show steadfastness in the face of imperialist challenges until the victory of revolutionary determination and the defeat of the imperialist axes' hatred.

The demonstrators issued a statement in which they vehemently denounced groundless resolution Number 748 and stressed that the coercive measures taken by NATO [as heard] against the Great Jamahiriyah are in fact in defiance of the Arab and Islamic nation all over

the world. They also called upon the Muslim masses to the necessity of action so that minor pilgrimage and pilgrimage to God's holy places are carried for God's sake only and so that the crusaders and their statements do not stand in its way. They also stressed that the provocations made by the crusaders against the Arabs and Muslims is, in fact, harming the Muslims' dignity and violating religious feelings and rites.

Reportage on Kurdistan Election Results

Elections Deadlocked; 2d Poll Set

NC2205181892 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, May 22 (AFP) - The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] came out even in Iraqi Kurdistan's first independent vote, the election judge announced here Friday.

Judge Amir Abd-al-Karim al-Hawaysi told reporters that a presidential rerun between DPK leader Mas'ud Barzani and PUK chief Jalal Talabani had been postponed to allow time to organise another poll.

In the parliamentary contest the DPK won 50.22 percent of the vote and the PUK 49.78 percent.

[In another report, (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic at 1720 GMT on 22 May adds:

"Talks between Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, are continuing in the aftermath of elections held this week to elect a Kurdish parliament in Iraqi Kurdistan.

"At the conclusion of a meeting held yesterday morning, Mas'ud Barzani said that his talks with Jalal Talabani were indecisive. A meeting to be attended by all members of the Kurdistan Front, comprising all political factions participating in the elections, is scheduled to be held shortly."]

Parties To Share Assembly 'Equally'

NC2305054992 Paris AFP in English 2325 GMT 22 May 92

[By Yurtsay Mihcioglu]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, May 23 (AFP) - The two main parties in Iraqi Kurdistan, who ran neck-and-neck in Tuesday's first free elections in the region, agreed late Friday to share out equally 100 of the new assembly's 105 seats, an election official said.

However a second round of voting, which would take place within two months, would be needed to decide which of the two rival party leaders would hold the presidency, they added.

The announcement of the election results, made by electoral commission president Amir 'Abd-al-Karim al-Hawisi, gave rise to widespread celebration among thousands of peshmergas, or guerrilla fighters, who had converged on this northern Iraqi town.

The fighters shot off red tracer bullets and machine-guns, as children handed out flowers and women danced in the streets of Irbil, which is to be the seat of Iraqi Kurdistan's new parliament.

Amir announced that the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), led by Mas'ud Barzani, won 50.22 percent of votes in the legislative poll, with Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) taking 49.78 percent.

The results of the presidential poll, held concurrently with the parliamentary one, gave Barzani 466,819 and Talabani 441,057 votes, with both the two other candidates getting less than 40,000 votes, the election commission official said.

But he said that in view of the close result, the commission considered that a second round of voting was needed.

The five remaining seats in the parliament were awarded to a coalition of parties representing the Christian minority in Kurdistan, with four of the five going to the Assyrian Democratic Movement.

None of the five other parties contesting the elections reached the seven-percent threshold necessary to secure seats, Amir said.

Talabani said the smaller parties, which had earlier alleged fraud, had said they accepted the election results.

He added that they had turned down an offer from himself and Barzani to be nevertheless given seats.

Talabani and Barzani, who have differing positions on the Kurds' relations with the central Iraqi Government in Baghdad, have stressed that they want to remain united.

Barzani, who is more moderate, is in favour of negotiations with Baghdad to determine the degree of future autonomy for the region, while Talabani opposes such talks, demanding a federal system.

The Baghdad authorities have said they will not recognise the results of the elections, describing them as "illegal."

The Kurdistan region has been protected from military retaliation by Baghdad by an allied force which arrived after last year's Gulf war.

The election commission president noted that under electoral rules a second round of presidential voting should normally be held within two weeks, but he said that this would be impossible for practical reasons.

Rebel Radio Issues Congratulations

JN2305145992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 May 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Dear listeners, O sons of the glorious Iraqi people: A few days after holding elections for the National Council of Iraq's Kurdistan and for the leader of the Kurdistan liberation movement, we stand today, proud and noble, before the will of the people and of that of Iraq's Kurdistan, who expressed this will through their enthusiastic participation in the elections.

The first gain is that the elections were conducted peacefully. This was the first objective. All the candidates on the lists had the opportunity to enter into the competition. Our people have achieved the first round of the democratic process despite the technical difficulties and the attempts to obstruct the elections. International observers have noted this important aspect of the process.

The results, however, depend on the will of the people and the voters who participated in the elections. We loudly say—once again—that it is a unique experiment in the region and, perhaps, in the world. Therefore, our people and their promising forces adhere to this experiment and are proud of it despite the difficulties and technical problems.

On this occasion, we congratulate the Iraqi people, all their ethnic groups and sects. We also congratulate the voters [words indistinct] and the friends of our people and their cause. Our victory in solidly establishing democracy in Kurdistan is a victory for all those who are concerned about freedom and democracy in Iraq.

Our party participated in these elections under the slogan of peace, freedom, and democracy. These are practical and just demands. Our people are in need of peace, security, and stability under the umbrella of freedom to achieve democracy.

Our objective, following these elections, will be to entrench and to implement these demands and to improve people's lives and the sovereignty of law. At the same time, we will work to achieve just and national rights.

PDPK Alleges 'Flagrant Rigging'

NC2305172792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1522 GMT 23 May 92

[Statement by the People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan Political Bureau]

[Text] Greetings in struggle: By a proposal from our party, the People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan [PDPK], the political leadership announced the following regarding the elections:

1. The results of the elections must be announced just as they are out of concern for the success of the elections process of the National Council of Kurdistan and to preserve the unity of the ranks of the Kurdish liberation movement.

2. In view of the flagrant rigging of the elections, it has been decided that the term of the National Council will be six months and honest elections will be held in October after good preparations.

3. The Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan proposed new elections for the leader of the Kurdish liberation movement to be held in two months. The law provides that these elections be held 15 days after the results of the first round are announced, because neither of the two candidates won an absolute majority.

[Signed] The PDPK Political Bureau

[Dated] 22 May 1992

Barzani, Talabani Agree To Cooperate

JN2305162292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1535 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Dear listeners: In a joint statement, strugglers Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani last night announced glad tidings to the members of our struggling Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], to the (?allied) Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and to the people of Iraqi Kurdistan. These tidings are that the elections for the Kurdistan National Council have been successful and that there is an agreement between the two sides to cooperate to serve the people of Kurdistan.

Barzani and Talabani began their joint statement by saying: As we announce the glad news of the success of the elections for the Kurdistan National Council, we thank all the masses of the Kurdistan people for their efforts and cooperation.

Strugglers Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani then called on the strugglers of the DPK and the PUK to organize joint celebrations of joy. The elections were a victory for everyone—a victory for all the people of Kurdistan and not just for a certain side or a single party. Strugglers Barzani and Talabani said that the DPK and the PUK have agreed to work jointly and fraternally within the National Council and the administration of Kurdistan to serve their principles and the people of Kurdistan.

The joint statement also calls on the strugglers of the DPK and the PUK to celebrate this fete and to embrace each other in jubilation. The statement warns against making problems or creating disturbances. Anyone engaged in such acts, says the statement, will face the utmost punishment.

Strugglers Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani appealed to everyone and to all those concerned about this achievement by the Kurdish revolution and liberation movement to work earnestly to ensure that the public interest will be given precedence over narrow party interests. Finally, they called on citizens not to fire even a single shot, as the bullet should be used when truly needed.

Barzani 'Victory' in Elections Announced

JN2305171092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 May 92

["Report written by an observer" on the results of the elections for the National Council of Iraq's Kurdistan and for the leader of the Kurdistan liberation movement—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen: There is no longer any room for doubt that our party and its leader, Mas'ud Barzani, have achieved a great moral victory, as well as a relative victory in accordance with the official results of the elections. The following are some remarks and information about the elections:

First: In accordance with the latest official results of the elections, brother Mas'ud Barzani has won with a majority of 25,761 votes [as heard]. Although, legally, it is a small majority that necessitates another round of elections, it is, however, considered to be an important victory in light of the circumstances under which the elections were held.

With regard to the elections for the National Council, our party list won with a majority of 14,076 votes [as heard].

We will broadcast further details pertaining to these figures in upcoming casts.

We say again that, despite the small majority, our party has achieved a great moral victory in light of the complications and conditions for holding the elections.

Second: Brother Mas'ud Barzani and our party adopted a high and lofty national stand for the sake of victorious elections and in the higher interests of our people. Brother Mas'ud Barzani's national and glorious stand and the strong feeling of responsibility for the cause of the people, their future, and democracy are represented by the bilateral agreement between our party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] concerning the participation of the two parties in administering the National Council and the executive authority stemming from it.

The future will witness that brother Mas'ud Barzani has made a glorious national stand for the sake of democracy in Kurdistan and out of his concern for the Kurdish people's higher interests and their stability—in order to improve their living conditions—and out of his concern for the unity of the Kurdish people. It is a wise stand; a true Kurdish national stand. It is represented by the immortal Barzani's wisdom, prudence, and logic.

Thus, our party and its leader, brother Mas'ud Barzani, have achieved a great political victory which will be solidly established in history.

Third: The other parties to the Kurdistan Front also admitted the victory of our party and of our brother Mas'ud Barzani in the elections. News agencies have carried detailed reports to this effect since last Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Fourth: Honorable ladies and gentlemen: We have reviewed the international media reports because it has appeared that, since last Tuesday, our party and our brother Mas'ud Barzani were winning in the elections. We also knew this. Despite all these facts, there is no doubt, as you have seen, that brother Mas'ud Barzani has preferred to sign a bilateral agreement between our party and the PUK out of his concern for the unity of the Kurdish movement and the unity of the Kurdish people and in the service of their cause and future. The agreement provides for the participation of both parties in the National Council and in the executive authority stemming from it. The first and final objective of brother Mas'ud Barzani's noble sacrifice was only, and is only, for the sake of the higher national interest of the people of Iraq's Kurdistan and their future.

The high national spirit embodied in this sacrifice is the greatest moral and political victory achieved by our party. It is a historical victory. The sacrifice was made in the interest of peace and the security of our citizens; in the interest of safeguarding political freedom; in the interest of the National Council; and in the interest of promoting the name of the Kurdish people throughout the world. That was also the wisdom of the immortal Barzani as reflected in the sharp turning points of the history of the Kurds and Kurdistan.

Fifth: Therefore, we have triumphed. Our triumph is entailed in Mas'ud Barzani's wisdom, sacrifice, and farsightedness [words indistinct] and the friends of our people. We have triumphed historically, and democracy has triumphed in us through our respect for democratic traditions and our concern for the higher national Kurdish interest and the future.

We still have a long way to go. Ahead of us, there are other elections. We will win in these elections by a greater majority with God's help and our people's support.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Mas'ud Barzani Interviewed on Elections

JN2405180392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1452 GMT 24 May 92

["Report" on BBC interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, by "BBC Arabic section correspondent" Hasan Mu'awwad; place and date not given]

[Text] A BBC Arabic section correspondent has contacted brother Mas'ud Barzani and interviewed him on the most important topical issues, in the forefront of which is the Kurdistan National Council elections and their results. The interview also touched on negotiations with the central government, reactions to elections, positions of the neighboring states, and other issues.

Answering a question from BBC correspondent Hasan Mu'awwad regarding the correlation between negotiations with the [Iraqi] Government and results of the elections, struggler brother Mas'ud Barzani said: The truth is that the elections were not conducted to find out who supports or does not support elections. This is because all the Kurds, as I believe, are peace-loving people. However, the question is what kind of agreement

[with the Iraqi Government?]. All Kurds seek an honorable agreement, but not at any price. Therefore, I do not believe that this is the criteria.

The BBC correspondent asked another question about talks with the central government. Brother Mas'ud Barzani answered: The National Council will be formed soon, or rather, it will perform its tasks very soon. This issue will be discussed by the council. It is the council which will decide what should be adopted in this regard.

Among the other questions asked by BBC correspondent Hasan Mu'awwad was one regarding the neighboring states' reactions to the Kurdistan National Council elections, and on the intention to dispatch envoys to Iran and Turkey. The leader of our party answered: We are very much interested in reassuring our neighbors that these elections were conducted for the sake of law and order, and to fill the legal and administrative vacuum in the region. The objective of these elections is not to establish an independent entity. We expect that all sides support us to entrench democracy in the region. We hope that our example will be a successful one. We are also very much interested in being understood by the Arab states and our Arab brothers.

The BBC asked struggler brother Mas'ud Barzani: Of course, you know Mr. Mas'ud Barzani that there is already a legislative council as well as an executive council for the Kurds. The Iraqi Government says that this council still exists. So, is there any contradiction now in Kurdish legislation. Brother Barzani clarified: There is now a legal and administrative vacuum. The Legislative Council and the Executive Council have not been performing their tasks for more than a year. Based on this, the Kurdish people decided to elect a national council willingly and freely. This does not even conflict with Iraqi law, because the region has the right to elect a council to run its own affairs.

Finally, the BBC correspondent asked struggler brother Mas'ud Barzani to elaborate on what was said when he answered an earlier question about learning from past mistakes made during the (?previous) round of elections for the Kurdistan National Council. He clarified that what he meant by this were technical mistakes. held.

Kurdish Leader Injured in Assassination Attempt

JN2305184892 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 May 92 pp 1, 6

[Text] A reliable source in Irbil affirmed yesterday that Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of the so-called People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan [PDPK], is in bad condition after being seriously wounded in the abdomen during an assassination attempt in Dahuk on 15 May 1992.

The source affirmed that the PDPK secretly moved Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman from Dahuk to Irbil via 'Aqrah in Ninawa Governorate for medical treatment. The source added that he was arrested in one of the Irbil hospitals by the Kurdistan Front and placed under strict security supervision.

New Terrorist Organization Reportedly Established

NC2405185992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1823 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Paris, 24 May (MENA)—From sources in Paris today revealed that a new Iraqi terrorist organization has been established by the Iraqi authorities under the name "Muslims' vengeance" [tha'r al-muslimin] with the aim of shaking stability in the Gulf area and in a number of Arab and Islamic countries.

The press sources said that this organization has received firm instructions not to attack any Western targets, including Israeli targets. The sources stressed that the final stages of forming this organization, building its structure, and appointing its leaders were decided during secret meetings [words indistinct] including Iraqi sides, Arab and Islamic groups, and opposition movements.

Arab and Western reports have indicated that the organization will rely on Iraqi and Sudanese elements and some Muslim brotherhood members in Jordan.

Canada Agrees To Release Frozen Assets

JN2305150792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Canada has announced its agreement to release the frozen Iraqi assets there to enable Iraq to buy foodstuffs and medicine. Canada Radio quoted External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, who made the announcement in Ottawa yesterday, as saying that Canada will ask for UN approval and that measures to unfreeze the assets will begin within several days or weeks. She also pointed out that the terms for releasing these assets are in line with UN Security Council resolutions.

In another development, a Canadian doctor has stated that more than 300 Iraqi children under the age of five are dying daily as a result of shortages in medicine and food caused by the blockade being imposed on the country.

Council Member Ramadan Interviewed on Gulf War

JN2105153192 Amman AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 May 92 pp 6-7

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, by unidentified staff reporters in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [AL-WATAN] Let us begin with the process of political decisionmaking in Iraq. How do you make your decisions?

[Ramadan] There is always a difference between states and leaders that set their small and big objectives on a temporary basis according to circumstances, and those relying on a certain ideology or theory with definitive objectives. We may brand the states in the former grouping as colorless and odorless. There is no consistent confidence in their positions, and they cannot rise and stand out. We, on the other hand, proceed, in any

decision we make, from the thought of this revolution, this leadership, and this people; this is our primary consideration. If the Revolution Command Council [RCC] is considered the highest legislative authority in the country—an authority shared with the National Assembly—then the thoughts of the Ba'th Party are the basis of any decision. The discussion centers on the legal and objective adaptation of this decision and its relevance to reality and our capabilities. This being the case, the discussion is a step forward toward the same objectives of the party, which it struggles to realize.

[AL-WATAN] Are we to understand from this that any important political decision or any local decision by the RCC is made with the political participation of everyone involved, and that there is no individuality in the decisionmaking process?

[Ramadan] When any leadership, government, or people proceeding from common ground concerning their objectives and future authorize any person, no matter what his rank, to handle certain issues, they understand that he expresses the opinion of them all. His views do not emerge from a vacuum but, rather, from his experience and speciality in adapting the decision. Still, the decision must be based on the common objectives constituting the basis for society and its leadership.

[AL-WATAN] Does it happen that different views emerge when the RCC makes a decision?

[Ramadan] Debate and voting take place, and different views emerge, as I said. But there are no disagreements over central objectives. You do not have someone saying we believe in unity, another saying we believe in capitalism, and a third saying we believe in totalitarianism. No, there is common ground, but views on how a decision should be formulated may differ. The decision not to surrender to the will of the U.S. Administration has been made and that was it. The role of the leadership is to adapt the situation to suit the stage of confrontation, and to create internal and external circumstances that serve this decision. Here, discussion is held, and a general trend, which is the sum of the debate, appears. What is agreed upon by everybody is then decided. On some rare occasions, however, different opinions on delicate issues emerge, and in such cases we resort to voting. The opinion of the majority, of course, is adopted. This is not a difference in opinion toward principled positions, as much as it is an argument that some method is better than the other, which is only natural.

[AL-WATAN] Was the decision to enter Kuwait made collectively by the RCC, or was that decision made in a different way?

[Ramadan] As I have said, each decision has its own nature, significance, and circumstances which dictate the circle of early discussions. For example, take the idea of unity between Iraq and any other Arab states. The Iraqi people believe in unity. Consequently, if the leadership raises this proposal and makes a decision on it, it will in fact be expressing the will of the people. What remains is the method through which you can explain this to the people. The issue of Kuwait was decided 100 percent by the leadership. We can say this decision was unanimously approved by the leadership, but it was not possible to announce it to the masses, not even from a technical viewpoint.

[AL-WATAN] So the decision was made unanimously at a full RCC session and not within a small circle?

[Ramadan] Yes, in a full session. It was not arrived at during a single session, but over a number of sessions. Everyone continued with his work until the zero hour. It was the same case with the National Assembly.

[AL-WATAN] So, the National Assembly was briefed on the subject?

[Ramadan] Yes, yes, in full.

[AL-WATAN] Was it informed of all the details?

[Ramadan] Yes, all the details. The execution was left to the leadership.

[Al-WATAN] Has the leadership taken the magnitude of the aggression against Iraq and the size of the coalition into consideration, and were these within its view of the sequence of events?

[Ramadan] When you discuss the issue of Kuwait, do not look at it as being independent from the circumstances that surround Iraq and the nation, the international conditions, the role of the United States and Zionism against the Arabs, and the U.S. national security plan concerning the importance of the region and oil. Iraq had explained this on more than one occasion in public. It explained it at the Arab Cooperation Council summit in Amman and in the May [1990] Arab Summit in Baghdad. Why was the emergency Baghdad Arab summit convened? It was convened to defend Iraq in the face of challenges after major chapters of the blockade began to be implemented.

Additionally, Iraq has a known, undeniable right to Kuwait. Now when we say the Arab nation is a single nation, should one come out to say: No. This is infidelity. Why has this unity not been achieved? Clearly, there are many obstacles. However, the lack of the means to apply the idea and the existence of circumstances that prevent its achievement should not mean we abandon our principles. What was important was not that right, or the fact that Kuwait is part of Iraq—a fact which our generation knows and which existed even when the nation was united. What was important was the defensive position.

Iraq has obviously been monitoring the conspiracy and the aggression. It considered this way of entering Kuwait a means of self-defense. We cannot say that we were surprised by the size of the aggression, because we know the intentions of enemies. These include keeping the nation fragmented, weak, backward, and subservient. It is no longer necessary to interpret, analyze, or collect data on

their intentions. They are now being expressed frankly by the enemies themselves. You see them discussing how to destroy the long-range missiles and the mass destruction weapons of all the Arab states, not only Iraq. But, you do not see anyone talking about Israel, which possesses all these weapons.

Some brothers say that this is something dangerous, harmful, and new, but we say it is very useful. This is because these intentions have always been there, but they were able to conceal an important part of them for a considerable period of time. Some Arab governments assisted them in some slogans. This battle, the Mother of Battles, has eliminated the ambiguity and exposed their intentions. Therefore, it has become easy to meet with any Arab citizen and to talk with him about the size, nature, and objectives of the aggression. There is now a common language of understanding who is the enemy of the nation. After this enmity, this has become easier. The stage of the Arab people has begun to mobilize them and put them within the appropriate framework so they can play their role. There has been a stage characterized by lack of clear vision. This stage contributed to disrupting the Arab state of affairs. At that stage, anyone who used to say "no" was considered linked with the enemy and dissociated from the nation. We cannot but say that the stands of some rulers were surprising. Everyone of us used to have his own judgment of [Saudi King] Fahd and [Egyptian President Husni] Mubarak. We have never described them as first class nationalists or revolutionaries. But, did we ever expect that they would reach this level, put their land, funds, and resources at the disposal of the foreigner, and tell him go ahead and attack Iraq? We, at least as Iraqis, did not expect matters to reach this level. Consequently, we believe that the Arab brothers, more than enemies, are responsible for the major part of the crime of aggression against Iraq. This is because we know that those are our enemies.

[AL-WATAN] Have the Arab masses' reactions been as you expected them to be?

[Ramadan] No, less than we expected. We expected something more and greater. However, the overall reactions indicate the degree of fragmentation, division, and psychological breakdown of the Arab masses. The political organizations are largely responsible for this, not the masses. This necessitates that all the national political movements, particularly the pan-Arab ones, and the Islamic organizations reconsider their situations, because they were not up to their responsibility. Even the best political movements did not assume the minimum level of responsibility. In fact, some of them were lost and did not know what was going on. Based on this, they should reconsider their forms, structures, relations with other movements, and programs.

[AL-WATAN] On the party level, will the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party reconsider its philosophy or the nature of its policy, or...?

[Ramadan, interrupting] No, no, no, this is not a subject for reconsideration at all, the party's philosophy and theory have emphasized its credibility in this battle concerning the importance of unity, socialist construction, democracy, the importance of knowing who our enemies are. This battle has emphasized that the Arabs have no friends other than the Arabs.

The party has held a regional congress and will hold other congresses at various levels aimed at building the Ba'thist militant on militant principles away from the negative atmosphere that the Arab nation in general is passing through.

We now need, in the first place, to rebuild the Arab individual. Rebuilding the well-ordered Ba'thist individual who is supposed to lead the struggle and who has a duty toward citizens. This is what we are working for now.

[AL-WATAN] So the masses' reaction has not been at the required level. Is there a need for a new mechanism for action that will make the masses integrate more effectively with the Arab causes?

[Ramadan] During the past two decades the failures and retreats in the Arab arena and the nature of most Arab governments have been reflected on the condition of the political movements and their style of action away from the militant and popular methods. This naturally reflects on the citizens. I say again that I do not hold the citizen responsible because in many countries the citizens took to the streets but they did not know what to do. They were in need of someone to lead them. The masses have stood in front of the U.S. embassies and the embassies of the allies but they did not know what to do. They did not find a political framework. The problem is in the Arab political movement. This requires full coordination and integration at the level of parties in the [Arab] countries and their mode of operation in the pan-Arab arena.

[AL-WATAN] There have been several important events in the conflict with the Atlantic aggression on Iraq. The first was the meeting between the Iraqi president and the U.S. ambassador to Iraq. Some even thought that the meeting was to take or get the green light from the United States to enter Kuwait. Do the minutes of the meeting confirm this?

[Ramadan] What do you mean? To get the green light from the United States to enter Kuwait?

[AL-WATAN] It was said that on the basis of the Iraqi president's talk with the U.S. ambassador on resolving problems with neighbors (the minutes of the meeting were published in Amman) that the ambassador's answer was that there was no bilateral agreement between the United States and its friends in the region that empowers it to defend them, the ambassador alleged that her country will not interfere...?

[Ramadan, interrupting] At that meeting we wanted to be clear and to emphasize that we had clearly discovered the conspiracy whose tools were the region's rulers, topped by the rulers of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, that we had reached a point where we cannot

retreat unless things return to normal, and that we would embark on any measure that realizes this. That was the objective, it was not a mere maneuver.

[AL-WATAN] I was one of those who listened to the Iraqi president's speech on 21 February. I was one of those who were full of hope, because the speech contained predictions [istishraq], analysis of the magnitude of the aggression, and a political vision. I was one of those who said that the first shot fired at Baghdad hit Amman. This prediction by the leadership was not in harmony with what happened later—with the scale of the aggression and the extent of ferocity against Iraq.

[Ramadan] Why? Was Iraq supposed to defeat 33 states? Iraq held out in front of 33 states. Is it not true that two Israeli military divisions defeated all the Arabs? How can one say that Iraq was not up to predictions?

[AL-WATAN] Sir, I am trying....

[Ramadan, interrupting] No, no. I will answer you. This is the first time the Arabs go to a war on such scale, with a single Arab country on one side and the biggest and most important Western countries, in terms of human resources and capabilities, on the other. And yet, the leadership and the policy remained alive. What happened in 1967? Both the leadership and the policy disappeared. We all know that Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was finished in 1967. He resigned and was then reinstalled, but the policy came to an end, and the graph began to move downward. Can we compare the two battles? Can we compare between the positions of the Arab peoples in the two battles? In 1967, the people were stronger than now, and the popular pan-Arab awareness was much wider.

I say that Iraq's stance and steadfastness in front of the aggression came as surprise to enemies before friends. Some of them had been talking about 24 hours or 72 hours, and others about one week. The conspiracy developed; Iran and Turkey got involved in it; and the blockade is continuing up to this moment.

Had the military aggression succeeded, they would not have needed to continue the blockade until today. This illogical, incomprehensible, and hostile blockade exposes their own shame more and more to the entire world, including the countries that participated in the aggression.

[AL-WATAN] Why, do you think, the blockade is continuing despite Iraq's compliance with all Security Council resolutions?

[Ramadan] Because the conspiracy is continuing. I am still saying that the blockade decision was not an ordinary Security Council resolution. Popular Arab struggle against it, therefore, must continue. Pressure must be applied on some Arab sides, and certain positions must be taken in several places to discredit and ignore the blockade. At any rate, Iraq has decided, as it did in 1982, to adapt itself on the assumption that the blockade will go on, and to continue building up its own capabilities. The colonialists' objective of achieving through the blockade what they had failed to achieve through the aggression cannot be fulfilled.

[AL-WATAN] Those who visit Baghdad will discover that the blockade has served, not harmed, Iraq?

[Ramadan] Certainly, this is one of the positive results of the aggression. Had the confrontation not been on the required level and had the genuine Iraqi not felt that he really was on the level of the confrontation, we would not have seen these positive results. When the Iraqi saw the human and technological size of the aggression and felt the size of the objective of the aggression, which wants to turn him into a slave, he became aware of his greatness. The Iraqi then moved, after the aggression, to rebuild his country on a level that is even greater than the level of his confrontation of the military aggression.

What was achieved in one year after the aggression did not happen after the Second World War; no one country in the world did what we did. What we implemented in 12 months could not be achieved in five years by hundreds of foreign companies and by 2 million Arab and foreign workers. What we implemented could not be achieved even if billions were spent. The reconstruction stage proceeded in a distinguished manner through developing our production capacity and finding alternatives to the material we used to import.

As the first year of the blockade was for this reconstruction, in the second year, you will witness the production of Iraqi products despite the blockade. You will witness the production of tractors, vehicles, water pumps, trucks, and harvesters. It will be a distinguished industry and competitive with foreign products.

[AL-WATAN] We want details, because we heard about a plan to manufacture an Iraqi vehicle in 1990?

[Ramadan] This will appear before the end of this year or at the beginning of next year. A 100 percent Iraqi-made medium-size car similar to the Oldsmobile will appear. It will not appear as a model first and then manufactured years later; it will appear and be manufactured immediately. The al-Nida' tractor also, which was announced, has now entered the production stage. Approximately 2,000 tractors will be produced during the rest of this year and will be distributed to the farmers. Next year, we will produce 10 to 12 thousand. During the next two months Iraqi harvesters and trucks will also appear. As I have said, the production of cars will be at the final stage by the end of next year.

[AL-WATAN] Therefore, what is the response to the aggression and to the blockade?

[Ramadan] The response is not to appeal to the Security Council, that is, America. The person who expects anything good from his enemy is ignorant, that is if not suspect.

[AL-WATAN] Sometimes, the visitor notices some discontent here and there. This is normal...

[Ramadan, interrupting] Regarding the economic situation, is it not so?

[AL-WATAN] Yes, regarding the economic situation. It is normal that citizens complain sometimes. Does the leadership take this discontent into consideration?

[Ramadan] The leadership does not only take discontent into consideration, but studies it on a daily basis as well. Our reaction to it, however, disproves the aggressors' belief and conviction; namely that complaints due to the shortage of a specific substance or machine would pressure the leadership to retreat. To us, complaints pressure the leadership to find alternatives to entrench the homeland's genuineness, steadfastness, independence, and progress. Sacrifices must be made in this regard. Usually people endure this differently. Here comes the role of the popular organizations, such as the party, unions, and associations, in the enlightenment of the people. An example of this is the farmers' union and its role in the enlightenment of the farmers. Every inch of land was planted this year. We took extraordinary measures to fight price hikes, and encouraged the citizens to form cooperative societies in their areas. Within six months, the number of cooperative societies increased four times. The citizens are eager to deal with their situations in their own ways. We will continue to suffer from discontent, but without becoming worried. We are interested in complaints, and do not consider them strange. Complaints are a very normal thing. We are aware of them because we are close to the people; we meet with them. We work to deal with all the repercussions and all that appears on the surface.

[AL-WATAN] On the level of the state, the party, and the leadership, what are the lessons you have learned from the aggression and the embargo?

[Ramadan] On the level of the party, we learned to build a Ba'th struggler on a genuine basis. We came to know this struggler during the most difficult of circumstances. This struggler performed miracles under many circumstances, on the regional level in particular, and on the pan-Arab level in general. On the level of the people, our vivid relationship with the people must grow away from the general formal frameworks. Therefore, we must revise the framework of leading, popular, and social organizations so that they would carry out their roles in this same spirit. In other words, these organizations are not mere popular, economic, or professional organizations, they are national organizations in the first place. All organizations carry out their specific roles on this broad basis.

On the official Arab level, our steps of cooperation must be based on how close that country's stand is to Iraq. Arab solidarity must not be an umbrella to cover the faults of the agents and traitors. Rather, it must be a chance for those who want to return to their nation, conscience, and honor. We are not embarrassed to say that we have distinct relations with this or that country. This does not mean that the door is closed to the others. The doors are open. Also, we learned that there can be no friendships with foreign countries. We will deal with all countries, including those that took part in the aggression, on the basis of mutual interests, not principles or friendship under any circumstance.

Any relationship promotes the nation's capabilities and action, but must not be at the expense of anything else.

[AL-WATAN] Do you believe the Arab League is still fit to serve as an umbrella for the Arabs?

[Ramadan] If we adhere to the principles upon which the Arab League was founded, then yes, it is still a fit foundation that has room to grow. However, in its current configuration, the Arab League is a reflection of the Arab reality. We must not ignore the Arab League as an idea. If we speak about some defects in its charter or basic law, then the Arabs can address these defects when they wake up and are able to adhere to theory. But the existence of a political organization that brings different Arab countries together is essential, which is all the more reason to deepen the league's role and influence. We do not evaluate the Arab League as a pan-Arab umbrella in its current situation and under its current leadership.

[AL-WATAN] The experiment of Arab axes and cooperation councils has proven to be a failure. How do you view this experiment?

[Ramadan] We cannot say it was a failure; the councils did not seize their full opportunity and dimensions. Although there was a big mine within the Arab Cooperation Council, I am sure the council would have played a more active role if it had been allowed more time.

[AL-WATAN] Are you still optimistic about the future of the Arab nation and its existence?

[Ramadan] More than one could imagine. Once we lose confidence in this nation, we cannot go on, not even for a single day. The battle has proven that the nation is great and feared by its enemies. No nation on earth has faced an aggression on the same scale as the Arabs. The enemy effectively knows that this is the best nation on earth. No other nation has carried a message on such a large scale as has the Arab nation. It is enough that it is the nation of all divine messages. Had this nation not been great in terms of energies and capabilities, this feverish onslaught against it, and these attempts to humiliate it and tear it a part, would not have been launched.

I stress that this nation will reach a stage where it becomes the greatest nation on the face of the earth. All factors for this greatness already exist. Not only do we have the history, but we also possess material resources, as well as human resources, capable of making technological miracles surpassing all Western technology. Iraq is a simple model of this.

[AL-WATAN] Do you not think that the size of the challenge, the magnitude of the aggression, and the difficult reality the nation is experiencing, require us to conclude the Baghdad-Damascus chapter and restore normalcy between Baghdad and Damascus?

[Ramadan] Rather, all those points require us to complete any chapter of differences. However, as I have just said, I believe in the group, in solidarity, but not as an umbrella to cover for traitors. From now on, the people must know the traitors. Damascus is ours. But, who is ruling Damascus now? Whoever ignores the facts and says that Damascus is not like Cairo and Riyadh would be once again mixing cards.

We are not talking about Cairo, Damascus, Riyadh, Amman, or Tripoli. We believe in the aspirations and future of the entire nation.

However, letting geography become a reason for acquitting the traitors means that we have not learned from the past.

The PLO—although this is not our subject and is their own affair—was aware of the geographic importance of Syrian territory for the Palestinian struggle. This prompted them to continuously make concessions to Hafiz al-Asad.

But, what took place after that? Hafiz al-Asad stepped on Palestinian children in Lebanon. We do not take geography into consideration. Any Arab arena is important. Why is Damascus more important than other places, so much so that we should pardon it? How can we give the Arab people in Egypt the opportunity to dwell on, when we look at all conspiracies under the same microscope?

If an Arab citizen says that the difference between Baghdad and Damascus is still an ideological one, with regard to the Ba'th Party, I believe that what took place was more than that. Regrettably, many people and many politicians have found excuses for Hafiz al-Asad. You have noticed the great contradiction between his position and the generous and noble Jordanian stance.

The most prominent of al-Asad's slogans was the liberation of Palestine and hostility toward the United States. He, however, dispatched forces to join the U.S. forces fighting Iraq. Was he not given the opportunity to adopt a different position? Did the honest ones, including Jordan, not afford him such an opportunity? All that happened and is still happening. We do not forget the role of traitors. Nor do we forget the role of the good ones. The separation between the two must be final. One of the negative points of the past stage was the mixing of cards.

[AL-WATAN] If I am not mistaken, you are responsible for the Syrian bureau at the National Command, or you directly supervise it. Do you think that a change in the Syrian regime is likely to happen?

[Ramadan] I talk to you as a member of the National Command, not as an official. As a member of the National Command, I am optimistic that Arab people everywhere, no matter how long it takes—and it shall not be long—will discard the traitorous rulers into the dustbin of history. I have great confidence in this, regardless of the tyranny or the weakness of the nation. The reason for my optimism is that the traitors are now completely exposed, and their previous role of blinding the masses has ended.

[AL-WATAN] Thank you for this opportunity.

[Ramadan] You are welcome. We are pleased to meet you. We thank you for your role, and the role of the Jordanian press and leadership. One of the results of the Mother of Battles was revealing those close to us and those who are not, as well as creating cohesion between the two peoples. This relationship is invaluable.

Ramadan on Kurdish Elections, Syria

JN2505090892 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 20 May 92 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, by Hamid 'Abdallah in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] ['Abdallah] The blockade imposed on Iraq is now two years old. Is there any path which Iraq has not yet explored to ease or to lift the blockade? Do you see an end to that blockade in the foreseeable future?

[Ramadan] As is well known, the blockade is an unfair resolution imposed by the United States in the name of the Security Council. It is known that with its current structure, the Security Council reflects, in an absolute way, the will and desire of the United States, Britain, and France. Although the blockade is now two years old, and despite the fact that its justifications are no longer valid, it has not been eased, not in the slightest, and our planes are not yet allowed to fly. Thus, the blockade clearly reflects the intentions of the parties that imposed it. It has nothing to do with the issue of Kuwait, an issue which was used as a feeble excuse to stage the military aggression and to impose and maintain the blockade. Based on its complete awareness of the structure of the Security Council, I can say that the leadership in Iraq does not have much hope that the Council will issue a resolution to lift the blockade.

They use flimsy excuses to maintain the blockade. Resolution 661 clearly says that the blockade is linked to the Iraqi troops' presence in Kuwait. So what is the justification now for maintaining it after the Iraqi withdrawal? They say that the resolution is linked to Iraq's implementation of Resolution 687. It is known that this resolution includes complicated and intricate measures that need time to be implemented. Iraq indeed has responded positively to all paragraphs and clauses of that resolution. Can one link the issue of starving an entire people with a technical mechanism to implement a certain resolution? Iraq has implemented what Resolution 687 requires from it; however, has the blockade been eased, even slightly? The answer is no. We do not

have much hope that the Security Council will lift the blockade. We are confident, however, that our people's steadfastness, perseverance, strong will, belief in the inevitability of their triumph, and rallying behind their leadership will destroy the blockade. Leader President Saddam Husayn has stressed that the blockade will erode, whether the aggressors like it or not. We believe that every achievement Iraq makes in the industrial or agricultural sector, every response by Iraqi families to calls to adjust their living conditions in accordance with the extraordinary circumstances through which our country is passing, and every invention by the bright and brilliant Iraqis in this or that field will provide steady and serious strides on the path toward ending and destroying the blockade.

['Abdallah] Dust has been raised recently over the al-Athir facility. Iraq said that the facility can be used in civilian industries; however, they insisted on destroying it. Has it been destroyed, including the auxiliary buildings?

[Ramadan] The Security Council, working under clear instructions from the United States, is fabricating trouble in order to find insubstantial excuses to maintain the blockade. What has been raised about the al-Athir facility is one of these "lies." I can say that the al-Athir facility has been destroyed completely, including the structures that could be used for civilian industries. The goal is clear: to destroy everything that would enable Iraq to take even one step forward. They believe that by delaying Iraq from the march of progress for even one day will enable them to achieve a significant goal. The leadership has dealt with this issue in a way that will deny the enemies any such opportunity and that will shred all the false excuses which might be used to harm the Iraqi people.

['Abdallah] Iraq recently announced several achievements in the industrial sector, achievements which have caught the attention of observers. How does the world assess this?

[Ramadan] Iraq did not surrender to the states of the aggression, although it implements the resolutions these countries passed in the name of the United Nations. Iraq is ready to fight for the umpteenth time, and it will never surrender when its sovereignty, independence, and the happiness and progress of its people are involved. We know that with every step Iraq takes in challenging the blockade, the states of the aggression become more infuriated and rancorous. These states had hoped that Iraq would announce its capitulation to the designs of the aggression under the impact of the blockade the very first day, week, or month it was implemented.

The very fact that the Iraqis are standing fast in the face of a blockade that is unprecedented in history infuriates the enemies. What is important for us is to reshape the Iraqi individual in a way that will further anger the enemies. It will be an individual who has faith in his abilities, potential, and future, an individual who will do what he aspires to do without depending on foreigners. One of the most important objectives of the aggression is to instill a sense of despair, despondency, and weakness in the citizen. The establishment of a civilian industry will enhance the Iraqi's confidence in himself, in his people, and in his leadership.

['Abdallah] Do you believe that Iraq will become an advanced industrial state in the post-blockade era?

[Ramadan] Iraq announced in 1977 through President Saddam Husayn that it will become an industrial state within a decade. Iraq has made large strides in this direction. Iraq will also make large strides in this respect in the coming stage. It will become an industrial country that will have leverage thanks to its expertise and the potential of its sons and not because of the help and expertise of foreign companies.

['Abdallah] As we conduct this interview with Your Excellency, elections by the so-called Kurdistan Front are being held in northern Iraq under the overt supervision of enemy circles. What are the objectives of these elections?

[Ramadan] The blockade and the Kurdish issue are two cards that the United States and the states of the aggression use to weaken Iraq. Without going into the details of the Kurdish elections, I can say that the leaders of the rebellion themselves, including Mas'ud Barzani, have stated that the United States does not care about the rights of the Kurds. We have facts to confirm this. Was it not the United States and the states of the aggression who provided the Turkish forces with an umbrella to have them wipe out the Kurds? Where then is the American concern for Kurdish rights?

The Kurdish elements which have accepted agentry and subservience to the foreigner openly state that they are linked to the foreigner. In their meetings with Kurdish citizens, these elements speak about their relationship with the Americans and the British and reassure them that the armies of the agression are there to protect them. To me, cooperating with the enemies who fought against us is easier than to cooperate with those who sold out to the foreigner and thus established a disgraceful and serious precedent. They are discussing how to fragment Iraq with the Americans and the Mosad in the northern part of the country. Is this the appropriate course for the Kurds to obtain their rights? We are confident that the majority of our people there will boycott these elections and, consequently, will brandish weapons in the face of the suspect agents.

['Abdallah] What are the results of the Iraqi-UN talks on Iraqi oil exports?

[Ramadan] The results of these talks are governed by a hostile American desire to maintain the blockade against Iraq. The Iraqi delegation and the UN technical team agreed on 90 percent of the points discussed. Soon after the UN team's return, however, many of the agreed points changed under American, French, and British pressure. All they want is to interfere in Iraq's affairs and

to undermine its sovereignty. We say that no Iraqi citizen will agree to have his daily bread at the expense of sovereignty and dignity.

['Abdallah] What comment do you have on the demarcation of borders with Kuwait and the statements made by the rulers imposed on this state?

[Ramadan] Personally, I do not view the rulers imposed on Kuwait as officials. I do not even believe that they possess the minimum degree of dignity or human values. They utter what is suggested to them. They permitted themselves to act as agents for the foreigner and explicitly announced their disavowal of Arabs and Arabism. On this occasion, I would like to say that the issue of borders between Kuwait and Iraq is an old colonialist game; it is the same game Britain has been playing since the 1920's. Neither the UN technical teams nor printed papers can change facts. History has even known forms of usurpation and occupation of territory that were imposed on parliaments for ratification. The people, however, tore them up. The whole world knows that what the committee in charge of demarcating the border between Iraq and Kuwait did was unfair and was part of the aims of the aggressor states. Those who were instituted as rulers in Kuwait have no will or opinion in this regard.

['Abdallah] Do you not think that the Arab states' abidance by the blockade imposed on Iraq is no longer justified, especially since the aims of the plot have now been exposed?

[Ramadan] The Arab states' abidance by the blockade since the day it was imposed is a violation of the minimum level of pan-Arab commitment, as well as Arab charters and ties. Now that all covers, masks, and pretexts have been shattered, any Arab government that continues to abide by the blockade will bear greater responsibility than those who committed the blockade crime.

The Arab ruler who does not want us to believe that he is a party to the conspiracy or that he is directly contributing to starving the Iraqi people should promptly express his position and refuse to abide by the siege and orders from Washington.

Here I would like to ask: What will happen if all or some of the Arab countries break the blockade? Will America strike at them? The answer is no. However, some rulers do not want to be an obstacle to the American schemes, nor do they want to bother their American masters.

['Abdallah] Recently there has been much talk about a Syrian rapprochement with Baghdad. What is the truth, as well as the aims, of this rapprochement?

[Ramadan] Such talk is baseless. Its source is Syrian intelligence. It is a political game that will not deceive anyone. When the ruler of Syria realized that he was not paid the price he had expected for his participation in the aggression against Iraq, he began to raise the slogan of rapprochement with our country. Where is this rapprochement after the ruler of Syria sent 35,000 Syrian soldiers to commit aggression against Iraq? Where is this Syrian rapprochement when Syrian borders, more than any other borders, are closed in the face of the Iraqi people? It is a game aimed at blackmailing the dwarfish rulers of the Arabian Gulf states in a bid to improve Syrian finances.

Further Reportage on Fighting in Marshlands

Opposition Downs Regime Fighter Planes

NC2305144092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1322 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With almighty God's help and with the effort of our struggling people's zealous sons, our popular forces' air defenses were able to down a Saddamist regime's fighter plane as a formation of several fighter planes flew over the al-Qubab area.

Our ground defenses also foiled an attempt by regime helicopters to bombard our brothers in (al-Shati'). The helicopters fled without being able to carry out their suspect mission.

Renewed Attacks on Shiites Reported

NC2405161192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1520 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], which is an Iraqi opposition organization headquartered in Tehran, announced that Iraqi forces yesterday launched a new attack against Shiite fighters and civilians in the marshlands in south Iraq.

In a statement sent to REUTER in Nicosia, SAIRI said that the regime's forces used helicopters and heavy artillery in the attack. It added that there were several civilian casualties. The statement urged the international community to interfere to prevent further Iraqi attacks on the Shiites.

Hundreds of Troops Reported Killed

NC2405184492 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 24 (AFP)—The Iraqi Army has launched a new offensive against Shiite dissidents in the marshy southeastern region of al-'Amarah near the Iranian border, a leading Iraqi opposition group based here said on Sunday.

The Iraqi military deployed at least two Army corps in the offensive, scores of helicopters, heavy artillery and a large number of barges, a spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), led by Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, told AFP.

The intensive fighting left hundreds dead and wounded among the attackers, SAIRI reported, but gave no toll of casualties among its "popular forces" which have been fighting the Baghdad government in the region.

The Iraqi Shiite movement SAIRI said that Baghdad's offensive was repulsed along one of the three axes from which it was launched, and that the fighting was continuing Sunday along the other two. [passage omitted]

Opposition Forces Foil Attack

NC2505135992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1325 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Our popular forces have contained the vanguard of Saddam's brutish offensive on our people barricaded in the marshlands. The uprising's valiant sons frustrated Saddam's failure divisions and brigades at 0700 on Saturday 23 May. The bodies of hundreds of mercenaries who were killed litter the battlefield and scores of vehicles and gunboats were bogged down in the marshes. Our air defenses shot down two of Saddam's air force helicopters. Fierce battles are (?raging) in the death triangle, which swallowed up thousands of the Iraqi regime's cowardly men. God is great. Victory to Islam's courageous sons and disgrace to tyrant Saddam and his vulgar henchmen.

Reportage, Comments on Murder of Bat Yam Girl

Arab Fatally Stabs Bat Yam Girl

TA2405061992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] A young girl was murdered this morning in Bat Yam by an Arab from Gaza. He stabbed the girl on Ben-Gurion Boulevard in Bat Yam. She died of her wounds. The attacker was captured and, according to one eyewitness, he was wounded. The circumstances of his injury are unknown.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilnay reports that the police are combing the area. During his interrogation, the terrorist showed the police that he had an entry permit into Israel and said that he came to Bat Yam with the aim of stabbing a Jew.

Government Policies Attacked Over Bat Yam

TA2405112692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] A left-wing condemnation of the Bat Yam murder has come from the Meretz Party. Nevertheless, it is combined with criticism of the government for continuing with the Likud's policy of taking over the administered territories. This, Meretz claims, is playing into the hands of Palestinian terrorists and murderers.

From the right wing, Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen of Tehiya said that the permits for Palestinians to enter Israel have been turned by them into licenses to murder Jews. Ge'ula Kohen's party colleague Elyaqim Ha'etzni was critical of Defense Minister Moshe Arens for permitting the Palestinians gradually to turn the concept of autonomy into the basis for a Palestinian state.

Reacting to the murder this morning of the girl in Bat Yam, Rehav'am Ze'evi said the government should decide to ban the entry of Arabs from the administered territories. He said they only bring grief and death. If this is not done, he said, this 112th victim of the intifadah will not be the last.

Rehav'am Ze'evi also says he knows that the cabinet is going to discuss the freeing of convicted Soviet spy Kalmanovich. Ze'evi is against Israel's surrendering such a trump card, so long as Air Force navigator Ron Arad is not freed by the Syrians, together with other Israelis missing in action. He says pressure should be applied on the Russians to play an active role in getting missing Israelis repatriated.

The large parties in the elections campaign decided to cancel elections broadcasts scheduled for lunchtime today, because of the Bat Yam murder.

Rabin, Shamir Comment

TA2405151592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin today expressed his deep shock at the loathsome murder of a girl in Bat Yam. Rabin expressed his condolences to the mourning family, saying: It is inconceivable that knife-wielding Palestinians can walk freely on the streets of our cities while Israeli citizens feel unsafe in their own neighborhoods.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a while ago that every murderer should know that he will not come away from a terror attack alive. Speaking with members of the National Religious Party Knesset faction, the prime minister said that every murderer should know that he will not escape death.

Cabinet Discusses Incident

TA2405145892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The brief cabinet session today was largely devoted to security incidents on the Lebanese border and inside Israel.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens reported on the rise in Hizballah activity in south Lebanon. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq detailed to the cabinet the series of events following the fall of the SLA [South Lebanese Army] post. On 21 May, Lieutenant General Baraq reported, Air Force planes attacked a Hizballah training camp. Several Hizballah men were killed and more than 10 injured in the attack. The chief of staff further reported on the attacks on Jibshit and Qabrikha, during which civilians were also injured. Some 40 katyusha rockets and mortar shells fell in south Lebanon on 23 May. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA artillery returned fire.

Police Minister Roni Milo and Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner briefed the ministers about the murderous attack in Bat Yam this morning. Terner reported that the terrorist had a magnetic entry permit valid until 1993. Ministers Moshe Qatzav, Likud, and Avner Sciaki, National Religious Party, suggested that territories' residents aged under 30 be banned from entering the State of Israel's boundaries. Minister Sciaki also expressed his resentment at the fact that civilians who shot at the terrorist missed. The cabinet passed no resolution on the matter.

Two Arab Suspects Detained

TA2405202092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The Ayyalon subdistrict police this evening detained two Arabs from the territories and are checking whether they were involved in the Bat Yam murder. Our police affairs correspondent in Tel Aviv Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the two are not cooperating with their interrogators. It had been reported earlier that the Arab who was detained at noon on suspicion of involvement in the murder was released this evening at the conclusion of his interrogation when it transpired that he had nothing to do with the murder.

Shamir on Bat Yam Killing

TA2405185492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 May 92

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The prime minister expressed his opinion about today's murder in Bat Yam after the cabinet meeting, at a meeting he held with NRP [National Religious Party] leaders at this office. They came to complain about the freeze on construction in the territories—Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—but also repeated previous demands in the wake of the murder.

Yitzhaq Shamir was then heard to say the following, more or less: This man, the stabber, should have been shot. His shooter would have come to no harm. Murderers should know they will not escape alive when they deserve death. Later, the prime minister added: There are jurists who criticize me when I say this, but this is my opinion.

As for construction in the territories, the prime minister had news for the NRP. According to Shamir, they no longer have an axe to grind with regard to Finance Ministry officials. Following my instruction, Mr. Shamir said, the signing of contracts for the construction of 5,600 housing units in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, began today. Nothing will be to any avail now; these houses will be built, the prime minister declared.

Arens on Blockade of Gaza

TA2405193492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] As of 0400 [0100 GMT] tomorrow morning and for 72 hours the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will impose a blockade on the Gaza Strip. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this was decided this evening in a discussion at the defense minister's office, with the participation of the chief of staff, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, Shin Bet leaders, and senior IDF officers.

Minister Arens told our correspondent that those who wish to impose a complete blockade on the territories are unrealistic because the security problem cannot be solved through segregation. Minister Arens added that the security forces will have to increase control in the territories in the wake of the recent incidents.

A border policeman was detained this evening on suspicion of having beaten an Arab resident of Gaza. The Arab complained to the police that he was beaten this afternoon near the Holon cemetery. He identified three of his assailants, and the fourth suspect, a border policeman, was detained this evening. All four are 19 years old and residents of Bat Yam.

Our police affairs correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the second Arab suspect who was detained at noon in connection with the murder of the Bat Yam girl was released at the end of his interrogation this evening, after it transpired that he had nothing to do with the murder.

Our correspondent adds that a Kakh movement activist was detained this evening for having participated in an unlicensed rally near the house of the murdered girl.

Terrorist 'Should Have Been Shot'

TA2505115492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the terrorist who murdered Helena Rapp yesterday should have been shot and it was a pity that the people who fired at him missed. The murderous terrorists should know that in setting out to commit such acts they are risking their lives, Shamir asserted.

On the Israel Air Force attacks in Lebanon, Mr. Shamir said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will continue to eradicate terrorist nests until they get the message. Israel, Shamir said, has conveyed its message of peace to Syria on numerous occasions. If Syria is really interested in peace and stability in the region, it must act to remove terrorist organizations like Hizballah from areas under its control.

In response to a question, Shamir said that the personal attacks on Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin are not to his liking. Nisim Qeynan, our correspondent in the south, reports that the prime minister was speaking during an election tour of Bedouin townships in the Negev.

Five Arabs Injured in Tel Aviv Riots

TA2405154792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] In the Dan District today, five Arab residents of the territories were injured in riots that followed the murder of the girl Helena Rap in Bat Yam this morning. In south Tel Aviv a driver from the territories was injured when a stone was thrown at his car. He was treated in the Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. Another Arab was slightly to moderately injured in the Holon industrial zone and was taken to the Volfson Hospital in Holon. A Hebron resident was stabbed near the Rishon Leziyyon intersection. He suffered moderate to serious wounds. Two laborers from the territories were severely beaten.

A bus taking laborers from the territories back to their homes was pelted with rocks in Bat Yam. Police cars have been escorting cars from the territories to protect them against the rioters. The police detained several suspects of rioting in Bat Yam and other places in the Dan District.

A police officer was injured in the head by an iron bar this morning while trying to disperse rioters in Bat Yam. He was moderately wounded. The police detained 20 men who disturbed the peace in Bat Yam and Holon during the day following the murder of Helena Rap. Our police correspondent in Tel Aviv Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the police detained 10 Arabs from the territories

who did not have valid entry permits. Some 150 Arabs, who had been held for questioning immediately after the murder, were released.

Violence in Gaza Follows IDF-'Terrorist' Clash

1 Policeman, 3 'Terrorists' Killed

TA2405082692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] One border policeman was killed and another moderately wounded during a clash in Gaza. The family of the dead policeman has been informed. The clash in Gaza took place this morning in the Sabra neighborhood. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Border Police units were involved in the incident. Three terrorists were killed in the clash. The IDF spokesman said that a curfew was subsequently imposed on the Sabra neighborhood.

Correspondents Moti Amir and Moshe Nussbaum report that the clash took place at 0400 [0100 GMT] when border policemen stormed a building in Sabra. Five armed and wanted men were inside the building. They hurled a grenade and shot at the border policemen, killing one and wounding the other. Three wanted terrorists were killed and two were captured in the clash. A submachine gun, a revolver, and a hand grenade were found at the site.

Curfews were clamped on large areas of Gaza. Senior officers, headed by Major General Matan Vilnay, the commander of the Southern Command; Border Police Commander Meshulam 'Amit; and Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami'a, the IDF commander in the Gaza Strip, are debriefing the soldiers.

The IDF spokesman reports that the dead terrorists had been sought since the start of the year when a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad was uncovered in Gaza.

Gazans Barred From Israel

TA2405180292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The exit of Arabs from the Gaza Strip to Israel will be banned for the next three days. This ban came in the wake of a consultation between senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders and the defense minister.

In the next Sunday cabinet meeting Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo will suggest that a ban be imposed on the exit of Arab employees from Gaza to work in Israel. According to Milo's proposal, the government will determine the duration of this ban.

IDF Shoots 9 During Riots in Gaza

TA2505202092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] There was rioting in the Gaza Strip tonight in the wake of yesterday's killing of the three terrorists in a clash in Gaza town. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said that nine people were shot and wounded by soldiers' fire when the rioters were being dispersed. Gazans said that the number of casualties is higher.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports four improvised explosives were hurled at security forces in Khan Yunus tonight. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. In the Jabalyah refugee camp, a gas grenade was thrown at an IDF outpost; nobody was hurt. Two firebombs were also thrown at security forces there, and in Janin two firebombs were hurled at the military government building. There were no casualties or damage in those incidents either. Near the village of 'Azzun in Samaria, a firebomb was hurled at an Israeli bus. It ignited on the road, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

A firebomb was hurled at an Israeli vehicle on the road linking Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood with Bethlehem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that it ignited on the road, but caused neither casualties nor damage.

Levi Attends Lisbon Conference, Meets With Baker

Levi Seeks U.S., Russian Aid on Lebanon

TA2205193492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Israel has asked Russia to join the U.S. efforts to bring calm to the region and, among other things, to calm the situation in Lebanon. Foreign Minister David Levi this evening made that request in a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, who responded favorably.

Minister Levi warned that the situation in Lebanon is tantamount to a time bomb that might hurt Syria as well, if it does not deal with the Revolutionary Guards under its control.

Mr. Levi met Kozyrev in Lisbon at an international conference on aid to the republics of the CIS. Levi also met with the Ukrainian foreign minister. Israel's foreign minister is expected to meet with the U.S. secretary of state in the Portuguese capital in two days. This was reported by our correspondent Gid'on Kouts.

Levi 'Pleased' With Talks in Lisbon

TA2505173392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi returned a short time ago from Lisbon, where he had attended an international conference on aid to the CIS republics. Among others, Minister Levi conferred with the foreign ministers of Germany, Russia, Canada, and the United States. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports from Ben-Gurion Airport:

[Begin recording] [Eshel] Minister Levi came back pleased with his talks in Lisbon. He said Israel had a great deal to offer in terms of aid to the CIS republics, mainly expertise and know-how in food production, technology, and marketing. The talks were very good, the minister said, and now I am going back to my office and the election campaign.

Replying to a question, Minister Levi lashed out at the recent personal mudslinging in the election campaign. We should concentrate on the Likud's achievements, which should be presented to the public, he said. In his opinion, the personal attacks are unnecessary since they divert attention from the cardinal issues and hurt the Likud most of all.

As said, Minister Levi conferred with Secretary Baker and with the German foreign minister. I asked Uri Oren, the foreign minister's political adviser, whether the issue of granting Israel 1.5 billion Deutsche marks in German guarantees had been raised with the German foreign minister.

[Oren] The guarantees was one of the issues discussed. The new German foreign minister, Mr. Klaus Kinkel, said he was familiar with the issues and that he would further study them. He is aware of the talks held on the question of the guarantees and the commitment given by Chancellor Kohl and his predecessor, Mr. Genscher, and promised to raise the issue once again with a sympathetic attitude.

[Eshel] A news agency reported that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker agreed that the peace talks could be convened prior to the elections in Israel. Is the report true?

[Oren] The issue was indeed raised. Referring to it, the foreign minister said that the elections are totally irrelevant to the continuation of the peace process in view of the fact that a broad consensus exists among Israel's major parties that the process must be pursued within the agreed-upon parameters and understandings and that there is no sense in putting it off. The U.S. secretary of state agreed with Mr. Levi and said that he intends to work on it. [end recording]

Lebanon, Peace Process Discussed

TA2405172892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] In Lisbon today, Foreign Minister David Levi met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The two discussed the situation in Lebanon, the peace process, and aid to the CIS republics. Our political correspondent Arye Golan sums up the reports coming from the meeting:

Foreign Minister Levi updated Secretary Baker about developments in Southern Lebanon and the mounting tension there. Levi said that Israel takes a grave view of the situation in south Lebanon. Israel will not tolerate continued Syrian support for attacks against it from Lebanon. Levi also noted that the katyushas fired from Lebanon are being provided by Syria. Israel will react strongly if the escalation continues, Levi warned. He asked Baker that the United States use its influence to prevent an escalation.

Levi further updated Baker about his discussion with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev about the tension in Lebanon. Baker said he is pleased that Israel brought Russia into the picture. The Russians are considered influential in Damascus, although less so than in the past.

The two ministers agreed that everything possible should be done to prevent delays in promoting the peace process so as not to create a vacuum on this issue. Levi told Baker that Israel does not want the Israeli and U.S. elections to hold up the political process, and Baker said: We will do all that we can to see to it that the political process between Israel and the Arabs does not reach a stand-still. At this point, Baker added that he is encouraged by the progress made in the bilateral and multilateral discussions so far, both in tone and content.

On the third issue, for which the foreign ministers gathered in Lisbon, aid to the CIS, Levi briefed Baker about the discussions he held over the weekend with the republics' foreign ministers. The two concluded that Israel and the United States will continue cooperating on this issue.

Officials on Syrian Role in Lebanese Violence

Syria Warned To 'Neutralize' Guards

TA2205175992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi this evening delivered a warning to the leaders of the Syrian regime through the Russian foreign minister, with whom he met in Lisbon. Levi stated that if Syria does not neutralize the revolutionary guards under its influence, it might be hurt. This was reported by our correspondent Yo'av Tocker.

Foreign Minister Levi will meet his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, later. Levi is attending the international conference in Portugal that is examining ways to aid the republics of the CIS.

Lubrani Views Syrian Role in Lebanon

TA2405053892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 May 92

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] What in your view is responsible for the current deterioration in Lebanon?

[Lubrani] I believe it started because there has been a significant change in south Lebanon since Hizballah took over control of areas where it was not permitted previously.

[Einstein] Does Iran have an interest in the deterioration of the situation?

[Lubrani] I have no doubt that Iran is interested in an escalation along our border. It announced that it is opposed to the peace process and has become a focus for activity against the peace process. It has all the reasons in the world to want Hizballah to act.

[Einstein] What role does Syria fulfill in this deterioration?

[Lubrani] Syria is sitting on the fence and permitting Hizballah to do what it is doing. If Syria wanted otherwise, Hizballah could not do what it is doing.

[Einstein] Besides sitting on the fence, Syria is currently negotiating with Israel on the political level; is there not a contradiction between the two trends?

[Lubrani] There is a contradiction, but it is not upsetting anybody.

[Einstein] Does the strengthening of Iranian influence on regional events endanger the situation to the point of the risk of a small war, as Syria said?

[Lubrani] That depends on Syria, not on us. If attempts by Hizballah and others to undermine the security zone continue, then of course we will have to find a way to respond. As can be seen, we are acting very pedantically and with measure, but whoever makes decisions there must know that if the situation escalates, we will also have to find a way to deal with it.

[Einstein] Despite the tension and the exchange of fire, at least up to now there has not been any shelling of targets inside Israel. How do you explain that?

[Lubrani] They know that if that happens, it would be much graver than what is now happening.

[Einstein] One more question, Mr. Lubrani: Is there any news about the negotiations for our MIA's and POW's?

[Lubrani] To my regret, no.

[Einstein] Even not on navigator Ron Arad?

[Lubrani] To my regret, no.

Lubrani Interviewed on Hizballah, Syria

TA2505163792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 May 92

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Gad Becker and Li'ora Lanir—live]

[Text] [Becker] The dimensions of the Israeli reaction to the Hizballah attack on the SLA [South Lebanese Army] post has long ago gone beyond the terrorist attack itself. Is what is happening there now an all-out Israeli war against Hizballah?

[Lubrani] The confrontation with Hizballah is ongoing and has been continuing for a long time; it is not new. Hizballah attacks against the security zone have increased in recent months, and we must find a way to send a message that we cannot accept attempts to undermine the security zone even if it means operational activity extending beyond the normal.

[Becker] That message has still not been sent?

[Lubrani] I hope that it gets across. We are doing it deliberately so that whoever makes the decisions there will understand that by sending his people to undermine the security zone, he is responsible for setting off an Israeli response aimed at transmitting that message.

[Lanir] Mr. Lubrani, Cairo Radio announced yesterday that Syria had beefed up its forces along the Lebanese border and, according to that report, forces are also deployed in the al-Biqa'. Is Israel not concerned about real Syrian involvement in the current conflict?

[Lubrani] I do not think Israel is concerned about that. I believe that if it happens Israel will find a way to deal with it. I do not believe that is something that concerns us at this moment.

[Becker] When Damascus Radio warns about a small war that might break out in the region, what bell does that ring for you?

[Lubrani] I do not believe that everything that Damascus Radio warns about has to be taken precisely as uttered. There is propaganda and there is psychological warfare, and all sorts of things intended for consumption by all sorts of elements in the Middle East. We should not take it too seriously. As usual, however, we will always be on guard and see what happens.

[Lanir] What role, in your view, is Syria fulfilling right now?

[Lubrani] If Syria wanted to, it could in one sweep reduce Hizballah capabilities across the security zone and in Lebanon in general to a very significant extent.

[Becker] If Syria does not reign in the terrorists, will it suffer the consequences?

[Lubrani] Syria will have to explain how it permits terrorists to act when they totally upset life along the security zone. I would like to remind you that we have always said that as long as there is quiet on our side of the security zone there will be quiet on the other side. I believe we must transmit that unequivocal message to the other side.

[Becker] At the weekend, it was reported that Israel sent a clear warning to Syria. What is said in such a warning?

[Lubrani] We are telling Syria, which currently views itself as having great influence in Lebanon, to stop permitting terrorists to operate against the security zone.

[Becker] Period?

[Lubrani] Period.

[Lanir] Is Syria impressed?

[Lubrani] We will see. We will live and see.

[Lanir] What about Iran's role? Iran is also interested in escalation.

[Lubrani] Iran announced that it plans to derail the peace process, so it sent its emissaries to the security

zone to create a situation that will derail the peace process. We said in reference to that as well that we will deal with everything happening in the security zone and around it as though we did not have a peace process or bilateral talks with Lebanon. We will also continue to be everywhere we have to be to continue the talks with the intention of reaching some sort of settlement. The two things are two completely different tracks.

[Becker] How long will the shelling in the north last?

[Lubrani] I cannot tell you.

'Dispute' With U.S. Over Syrian Role

TA2405050492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 May 24 92

[Text] There is a dispute between Israeli and U.S. intelligence over the threat Israel is facing from Syria and the dangers of war in the region. A senior Israeli source referred to the dispute in a briefing to Israeli correspondents in Washington. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

['Oded Ben-'Ami] Despite the Israeli evaluation that Syria constitutes a threat and real danger to Israel's security because it continues to arm itself, U.S. intelligence believes that Syria's isolation reduces the threat of war to a minimum. The Americans, a senior Israeli official in Washington briefed Israeli correspondents, do not rule out Syrian initiatives against Israel from Lebanon or Jordan. U.S. intelligence believes, however, that since Damascus has lost its Soviet backing, and especially in view of the very poor performance by Syria's elite units in the international coalition in the Gulf war, it is not preparing for war. Syria simply cannot take the risk of a war against Israel, U.S. intelligence estimates.

The senior Israeli source said that there are other differences between the Israel defense establishment and the U.S. Department of Defense. Those differences are holding up $700 million U.S. aid to Israel already approved by Capitol Hill. The source also estimated that Israel's qualitative edge has recently been eroded because the Americans are providing the Arab states with weapons systems similar to those possessed by Israel. On the other hand, however, strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States is continuing to the satisfaction of both sides, the source added.

Ministry Calls on Syria To Curb Hizballah

TA2605051792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 26 May 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] In spite of the escalation of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] actions in south Lebanon, Israel is trying to allay the tension created in the last few days with Syria. Security sources reiterate that the IDF's actions are primarily designed to end Hizballah's terrorist operations against Israel. Israel sees no reason for any deterioration in the situation that might lead to a confrontation with Syria. The security sources point out that Hizballah, which is opposed to the peace process, is trying to undermine it through terrorist activities. Syria, being a partner to the negotiations, should bring about an end to those activities, which might affect the process. Israel hopes Syria will firmly exert its influence to curb the terrorist activities, the sources observe.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that if Hizballah's operations against Israel from south Lebanon stopped, there would be no problem whatsoever in south Lebanon, but if they continue, Israel would have to continue the necessary measures. So far, the defense minister said, the Syrians have not tried to prevent Hizballah's terrorist activities. A month and a half ago the defense minister summoned U.S. Ambassador William Harrop and asked him to relay a message to the Syrian Government to the effect that it should exert its influence and terminate Hizballah's activities, since its bases are located in an area under Syrian control. The answer to the Israeli message was received in the field in the form of an attack on a South Lebanese Army [SLA] outpost and the shelling of IDF and SLA positions in the security zone. This reaction triggered a series of Air Force raids on Hizballah bases and headquarters.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stated in Damascus that if Israel were to force a war on Syria, the latter would not hesitate to fight back. Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, said Israel seeks peace and all it wants is to guarantee the security of its citizens and protect them from terrorist operations launched from south Lebanon. Syria can exert its influence and bring those activities to an end, Nave asserted.

News agencies reported from Lebanon yesterday that the IDF and the SLA in the security zone were on a high state of alert and that Syria had reinforced its troops in al-Biqa' with hundreds of soldiers. Official IDF sources would not comment on those reports, and UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] sources said they had not noticed any special IDF activity or troop movements in the security zone. In any event, the assumption in Israel is that if Damascus so desired, Hizballah would stop or at least reduce its activities. The situation in Lebanon is sensitive and largely hinges on Hizballah's behavior in the next few days, the Israeli sources noted.

Troop Movement Termed 'Serious Development'

TA2505092892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 May 92 p A9

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] Cairo Radio yesterday reported that Syria has reinforced its forces on the Lebanese border and has even moved troops into Lebanon's al-Biqa' region. According to the report, Syria has moved 3,000 additional soldiers, tanks, and armored personnel carriers to its border with Lebanon. This forces have been deployed in al-Biqa'.

Israeli sources said that if this report is true then it is a serious development because Syria has so far refrained from increasing the number of its troops and moving them into al-Biqa'. The sources said that Syria is following the developments in Lebanon and Israel's reactions. It has also encouraged Hizballah to continue its terror attacks.

In reaction to the report, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman yesterday said that the matter is being examined. [passage omitted]

Arens Vows End To 'All Hizballah Activity'

TA2405081492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 May 92 pp A1, 10

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery duels with Hizballah continued at the week's end, and the general consensus is that katyusha shelling of the security zone and Israel will continue for several more days. The Defense Ministry believes that only Syria is capable of influencing Hizballah to stop the escalation.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday that hundreds of Katyushas and other firearms, such as Kalashnikov submachine guns, were recently transferred from Iran to Damascus, which transferred them to Hizballah. "Iran supports Hizballah financially, sends them instructors and arms, and inspires them," Arens said.

Washington appealed to Israel, Syria, and Lebanon at the week's end, calling for "maximum restraint" and a cessation of acts of violence. [passage omitted]

The IDF held deliberations on events in Lebanon with the participation of Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, and Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff.

Defense Minister Arens said that Israel would not permit Hizballah to think that its bases enjoyed immunity just because they are situated some distance from south Lebanon. He said Air Force attacks against terrorist targets would continue as long as Hizballah continues its terrorist activities in Lebanon.

"We will not restrict our actions against Hizballah targets. It is a war, for all practical purposes, and we must stop all Hizballah activity. We will hit any target that appears relevant to us as part of our effort to curtail their activities. It could be a commander, a headquarters, a base, or terrorists," the defense minister said.

Arens added that the Syrians are capable of restraining Hizballah since the organization's bases are located on territory under Syrian control. "If the Syrians decide to rein them in, then the problem will disappear," Arens said.

In an interview with HA'ARETZ, the defense minister said yesterday that Iranian weapons were transferred to Damascus and from there to the Lebanese region under Syrian control, where they were handed over to Hizballah. "We are talking about enormous quantities of arms," he added:

[HA'ARETZ] Has Israel taken any action against the supply of weapons from Iran to Hizballah via Damascus?

[Arens] We know that is how it is being done.

[HA'ARETZ] Has the government appealed to the Americans on the matter?

[Arens] We informed the Americans a month and a half ago that if Hizballah does not stop its activities, we will take steps against them.

[HA'ARETZ] Will Air Force attacks on Hizballah targets continue?

[Arens] I will, of course, not expand on the subject, but we will continue to take steps against Hizballah, and beyond that.

[HA'ARETZ] Were the Americans given prior warning of Israel's intention to attack?

[Arens] We do not tend to inform anybody of our operational activities. In general, we told the Americans that we would no longer endure Hizballah activity.

[HA'ARETZ] Was a direct message transmitted to Syria?

[Arens] It was an appeal by the United States, not by us. We have no link to the Syrians. The message was transmitted via the United States.

[HA'ARETZ] What is your attitude to the Hizballah attack on the SLA post?

[Arens] It was a grave incident and we must make sure it does not recur. I have not issued any instructions on the matter. Even without instructions from me, the IDF is doing what it must. [end of interview]

In reference to the findings on the attack on the SLA post, which indicate that at least two or three of the SLA soldiers collaborated with Hizballah, Arens said: "This is not a phenomenon; it does not reflect on the SLA in general, but might occur here or there."

Shelling, Raids in Southern Lebanon Continue

Katyusha Rockets Hit Marj 'Uyun

TA2205114192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Several katyushas fell at noon in the Marj 'Uyun area of the security zone. Nobody was hurt and there were no casualties, our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports. In response, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] guns have been shelling terrorist targets north of the security zone for the past hour.

Hizballah on 'Alert' Amid Israeli Raids

NC2205142292 Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Beirut, May 22 (AFP) - The pro-Iranian Hizballah guerrilla movement went on maximum alert Friday amid reports that Israel had moved army reinforcements to the Lebanese border and its aircraft were overflying southern Lebanon.

The tension came one day after Israeli air raids on eastern and southern Lebanon left 13 people dead and 25 wounded, security sources said. Early Friday 10 Katyusha rockets were fired at Israeli-controlled positions in south Lebanon, the sources said.

The exchanges came as military sources in Jerusalem said the Israeli army had moved reinforcements to the Lebanese border after Thursday's raids.

A security source in south Lebanon told AFP that Israel was dispatching troops and sending weapons to its self-declared "security zone" in the region in preparation for new attacks on Hizballah. About 25 tanks and armored vehicles, some fitted with 155 mm field guns, entered the security zone in the morning and more reinforcements were being dispatched later in the day, the source said.

Six Hizballah fighters and an Iranian cameraman were killed Thursday when Israeli aircraft pounded one of the group's training camp in the eastern al-Biqa' Valley near the Lebanese-Syrian border. A second raid targetted a former position of the pro-Syrian Amal militia in south Lebanon, killing six civilians, including a women and her four children.

Three thousand people meanwhile attended the funeral in Ba'labakk of the Hizballah fighters while other ceremonies were to be held in Beirut for the victims of the second raid.

Hizballah leaders meanwhile deserted their homes in Beirut's southern suburbs, the al-Biqa' Valley and south Lebanon as a precautionary measure while Muslim fundamentalist fighters observed maximum alert, security sources said.

On Thursday, Hizballah chief Hasan Nasrallah said the struggle against Israel would continue and called on the Lebanese people to "prepare to make more sacrifices."

Several Israeli officials have threatened Hizballah with reprisals following a daring raid Tuesday against Israel's proxy militia that left four South Lebanon Army militiamen dead.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens said his country would do "whatever is necessary to end Hizballah's terrorist action, including attacks on its leaders."

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz called for restraint and reminded Hizballah that firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel and the security zone were forbidden.

The U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Ryan Crocker, told reporters after a meeting with Buwayz the situation was delicate and that all parties were being asked to exercise restraint.

Syria, which has about 30,000 troops in Lebanon and is a major power broker in the country, said Friday that Israel wanted to turn south Lebanon into military camps for its army ahead of a new expansion and further aggression against the Arab world.

AL-BA'TH newspaper, organ of Syria's ruling Ba'th party, said the Israeli action aimed at emptying south Lebanon of its population.

In Iran, the foreign ministry condemned the Israeli raids and called on Muslim countries to act swiftly against the attacks but did not say how.

Katyusha Fired From Jordan Hits Golan

TA2405151292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpt] It was reported today that on the morning of 22 May, a katyusha rocket was fired on the Golan Heights. No one was hurt. The rocket was apparently fired from Jordanian territory. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports:

The Israeli-Jordanian border has been quiet for the past several months. Terrorists have occasionally tried to get near the Jordanian Army posts, but no hostile activity has been reported. That is why there is now an examination of whether the firing of the katyusha over the weekend was an isolated incident or whether there is an intention here to warm up the border.

The katyusha fired from Jordanian territory exploded early Friday morning in the south of the Golan Heights. No one was hurt. It is not clear whether the terrorists were attempting to hit the Golan or the Jordan Rift Valley. [passage omitted]

IDF, SLA Renew Shelling on Hizballah

TA2305155792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Beirut Radio stations have reported that Hizballah men today continued shelling alternately Jazzin, Marj 'Uyun, and al-Qulay'ah in the security zone, and that the SLA [South Lebanese Army] warned that it would severely bombard Sidon, if the terrorists' shelling continues.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Beirut radio stations reported about an hour ago that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA renewed their shelling of targets in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

Our correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht has just reported that SLA and IDF artillery is indeed shelling terrorist targets north of the security zone, in retaliation for a round of katyusha rockets fired at the eastern sector

of the security zone. That was the third round of katyushas the terrorists fired at the security zone in the past 24 hours.

Shelling Continues in Lebanon

TA2205181592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1755 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Here is an update we have just received from our correspondent in the north, Moti Eden: Over the past hour, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery has been shelling terrorist targets near the Jazzin area, after dozens of katyushas and mortar shells were fired at the Jazzin and Marj 'Uyun area this evening. A civilian was killed, and an SLA soldier was injured as a result of the fire.

Hizballah Targets in Lebanon Attacked

TA2505052592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] planes this morning attacked Hizballah terrorist targets in the vicinity of Jibshit and Dirdghayya in southern Lebanon. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that the targets were hit and all our planes returned safely to base. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that this is the third IAF raid in recent days on Hizballah targets in southern Lebanon.

Cabinet Briefed on South Lebanon

TA2405122792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] At the cabinet session today, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, reported that 40 mortar shells and katyusha rockets fell on south Lebanon over the weekend. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that, according to the chief of staff, Hizballah fired all the rounds, directing them at the security zone and the Jazzin enclave.

Gen. Baraq added that last week there was a rise in the number of disturbances in Judaea and Samaria, but no Palestinian fatalities. He said 40 wanted men were captured. A rise in disturbances and terror attacks was noted in the Gaza Strip last week as well.

Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo told the cabinet that a drop in disturbances has been noted in Jerusalem, with 42 incidents registered last week as compared with 53 the week before.

Hizballah Chief Killed in Air Force Raid

TA2505062092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] planes conducted another air raid in southern Lebanon a short while ago. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that terrorist targets were hit in the village of Majdal Silm. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

Earlier today, the IAF attacked Hizballah targets near Jibshit and Dirdghayya in south Lebanon. News agencies reported that Yasir Nassur, the Hizballah commander in Jibshit; his wife; and two daughters were killed in the attack. The agencies reported that two fighter-bombers and two helicopters participated in the attack, adding that besides the residence of the local Hizballah commander, a building housing a television station was also destroyed.

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0433 GMT on 25 May reports the following: "Two Israeli Phantom fighters carried out an air raid against Qasr Nassur in an area between Jibshit and Shukin at 0630 this morning, causing unspecified casualties and property damage." Beirut Voice of Lebanon at 0520 GMT adds the following: "Our correspondent in the south reports that four people were killed and three were wounded during the Israeli raid."]

Spokesman Denies Reinforcements Moved In

TA2505151692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon claims that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today reinforced its troops in the security zone with another 500 soldiers and over 50 tanks. The Egyptian news agency's correspondent reports from Lebanon that a smaller armored Israeli unit consisting of 20 tanks left the security zone on its way northward to search for terrorists.

The IDF spokesman has categorically denied these reports, which were monitored by Mikha'el Gurdus.

Planes Return Safely After Attacks

TA2605100992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0958 GMT 26 May 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] At noon today, Israeli Air Force planes raided terrorist targets in Jabal Safi. The targets were hit and all our planes returned safely to base. The targets struck were outposts and bases used by Hizballah for launching terrorist attacks. This is the fifth Air Force raid on Hizballah targets in the last few days.

[(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 0910 GMT reports the following: "Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah has just reported that Israeli aircraft are now carrying out fierce air raids on the hills of Mlita, Jabal Safi, Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Jba'."]

Rabin Interviewed on 'Personal Setback,' Scandal

TA2205115592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 May 92

[Telephone interview with Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan on 21 May—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Good day to Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good day to you and to our listeners.

[Friedman] The allegations regarding your failure to function on the eve of the Six-Day War and your drinking habits, which are coming from parties close to the Likud—the party itself has denied bringing up the matter—have so far only elicited general responses from you in which you dismiss them as old stories. Are you ready to give us a more specific response to these accusations?

[Rabin] First of all, I think it is a national scandal that somebody decided not to mark the 25th anniversary of the Six-Day War. I was the chief of staff who prepared the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for this war and commanded it during the fighting. A war has but one yardstick: its results. I am convinced that if the war had failed to achieve results, God forbid, I would certainly have been the one to shoulder the blame. The question of whether or not there was a personal setback that lasted one day is totally out of proportion to the results of the war. It is about time to put things in their proper perspective. I think that the failure to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Six-Day War constitutes a slight to hundreds of thousands of soldiers and officers who performed magnificently in this war. I am afraid that the government's decision not to mark this anniversary was motivated only by the fear that I would be personally identified with the war's achievements.

[Friedman] Mr. Rabin, let us speak for a moment about what you called a personal setback. The late Moshe Dayan noted in his book "Milestones" that on 27 May, he was approached by 'Ezer Weizman, who was then head of Operations Branch at the General Staff and who told Dayan that you wanted to resign because you had made serious mistakes and pushed Israel into a tight spot. Is this true?

[Rabin] Look, on 27 May I was functioning as chief of staff, and all these stories... [Rabin changes thought] I will add that I am all for clean politics. I think that public officials should stand behind their failures as well as their achievements. I did that in my own book in 1980. I also followed that rule in an interview to the press. I do not have to continually dwell on one small segment of the results of a great war which I directed and for which I prepared the Army.

[Friedman] Yes. You know that the official version says that former Chief of Staff Yitzhaq Rabin suffered from nicotine poisoning as a result of excessive smoking?

[Rabin] Give me a break from all these versions. I will not discuss them.

[Friedman] Then what happened?

[Rabin] I will not deal with these issues. Things should be put in proportion. All this is not news. These things have surfaced now because someone wants to bury the Six-Day War and is searching for some pretext to get at me.

[Friedman] With your permission, Mr. Rabin, let us move on to the next issue: drinking habits. I believe that in an interview approximately two years ago, Dan Shilon asked you whether you drank, setting off a great uproar and remarks about his impertinence in asking such questions. Today, however, the question must be asked, because it has become a public issue. Are you addicted to alcoholic beverages?

[Rabin] Really, this is just plain nonsense. It is about time that the media started thoroughly examining things. It should ask people who can say the opposite of me. This is one of the ugliest rumors I have ever heard. Now they are denying responsibility for all kinds of election mischief. I believe that at this stage, these personal attacks are doing me a great service politically, although they are quite unpleasant on the personal level.

[Friedman] How is that?

[Rabin] A large part of the public totally rejects the way the Likud has chosen to raise these issues in the election campaign. It is about time it really got to the point.

[Friedman] Mr. Rabin, since Labor has adopted a tough line in this election campaign—at least compared with previous years—do you believe that your main rival, Yitzhaq Shamir, may soon be asked very tough questions on very personal matters as a result of allegations published in the media?

[Rabin] I do not know and do not want to deal with this issue.

[Friedman] No, I am asking a very serious question: Does the Labor party also possess files on senior Likud officials, as the Likud is said to have on Labor?

[Rabin] I do not know and will not deal with this issue.

[Friedman] Thank you, Labor Chairman Rabin.

Shamir Interviewed on Election Campaigns

TA2305094692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 May 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dov Gilhar on "In the Current Situation" program on 21 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Gilhar] Mr. Prime Minister, it is about a month before the 13th Knesset elections, and it seems that the atmosphere in the street is heating up. You spend a lot of time in the area yourself these days—is this your impression too?

[Shamir] I would not say it is very hot yet, but it is hotter than before, and this is normal. I do not see anything unusual about this. As time moves and election day gets

closer, interest increases. Still, if reference is to ugly phenomena, such as violence, I do not think there are many such phenomena....

[Gilhar, interrupting] Can these phenomena be still defined as legitimate?

[Shamir]....but we need to see to it that they do not exist at all. [passage omitted]

[Gilhar] Mr. Shamir, it seems that in its election campaign the Labor party highlights Yitzhaq Rabin. Even the ballot ticket reads Rabin-led Labor. This is an almost complete equation of the man and the party. What is your opinion of this form of campaign?

[Shamir] This does not seem right to me at all.

[Gilhar] Why?

[Shamir] We are not in the habit of turning the political struggle or confrontation into one of absolute personification [preceding word in English]. People should vote for a way, for principles, for techniques, not for a certain person. After all, what do people in Israel vote for? Do they vote for the candidate's looks or for the way he expresses himself?

[Gilhar] Did you not think, even for a minute, of adding your name to the ballot ticket, to have a Shamir-led Likud noted on it?

[Shamir] Definitely not. It seems to me that this is incompatible with our views about democracy. I think this is anti-educational. This is tantamount to giving in to moods which are sometimes the result of some fabrication [preceding word in English] of various technical means. [as heard] This is not serious.

[Gilhar] Some in the Labor Party come up with a counterargument: The Likud, they say, is trying to hide the prime minister. The impression which may be given then is that you stand out less in the campaign, compared to Rabin.

[Shamir] This is untrue. Nobody is trying to hide me. I appear on various occasions, at rallies and meetings, daily. Generally, nobody can be hidden, but what I can see in Labor for instance, due to this exaggerated emphasis on a single person, is that we hear nothing about the party's principles, proposals, and plans. Furthermore, we do not see or hear the other party candidates. After all, hundreds of people were elected in Labor's primaries. All those tens of Labor Knesset candidates—they are completely hidden! How is this possible? After all, this is pulling the wool over people's eyes. Will Mr. Rabin do everything? Where is everyone else? Where are no. 2, 3, and 4 on Labor's list? There was a struggle over these slots, after all—why are they not presented to the public? [passage omitted]

[Gilhar] What form will the next government take if you are the one who will have to toil on establishing it? In one of the previous election campaigns you said you would aspire to establish a national unity government after the elections. What can you say about this today?

[Shamir] I cannot say this today because this idea which we tried to work out did not succeed. We formed two national unity governments and they fell apart because the other side, the Likud's partner in forming these governments, dissolved them. Therefore, I cannot today advocate a repetition of an attempt which failed in recent years.

[Gilhar] You are not rejecting this outright though, are you?

[Shamir] In principle, I did not and do not rule this out, but in fact, I do not today see a chance for such a possibility.

[Gilhar] Last question Mr. Prime Minister, will this be the last election campaign in which you compete for the prime minister's position?

[Shamir] This is possible.

[Gilhar] Thank you.

Likud, Labor, Meretz Launch Election Ads 24 May

TA2405205892

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0440 GMT launches a live relay of the first radio election broadcast, starting with the Likud list "whose symbol is Mem, Het, Lamed [Mahal]."

The Likud advertisement starts with the following Jingle: "My home, my way—the Likud is it. My future, my security—the Likud is it. In our way we will bring peace, construction, aliyah, and the fulfillment of the dream. We all together, and each one individually, know this is true; this is the Likud. The Likud is in the heart, the Likud is on the mind or in the lead [both meanings are possible for the Hebrew "barosh"]—the Likud is it. Only one can, in the face of the entire left—the Likud is it. The Likud is in the heart, the Likud is on the mind or in the lead—the Likud is it. Only one can, in the face of the entire left—the Likud, the Likud is it, the Likud!"

This jingle is followed by a one-minute statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir: "Dear Citizens, when you go the ballot box, you will have to decide whether you vote in favor of buttressing the security of the state; advancing the peace process along the lines determined by the government; and expanding the economy in order to increase aliyah absorption, or whether your vote will relinquish the fate of the state to the left, which is eager for dangerous concessions, and its sole desire is to put its hands on the state's resources. The advancement and welfare of the State of Israel need a continued Likud rule. The Likud has a way, and the Likud has a group of talented and experienced leaders, worthy of leading the nation. That is true."

The ad then switches to two unidentified announcers who deliver the following single statement: "Labor, in a campaign of lies and scare tactics, is trying to tell you

that everything in the country is gloomy, that nothing positive is taking place in this land, but you know the facts. For the first time in history, the State of Israel has begun peace negotiations with all the Arab states without preconditions—this is true. Israel has absorbed 420,000 immigrants—a historic, unprecedented miracle; this is true. Israel has resumed diplomatic relations with 32 countries in the world, including Russia and China—this is true. These are the facts. This was done by the Likud. You know this is right. This is the Likud."

The second advertisement at 0447 GMT is by "the Rabin-led Labor list whose symbol is Alef, Mem, Tav [Emet, which also means "truth" in Hebrew]." The ad begins with a resident of a poor Tel Aviv suburb claiming that although he had voted Likud in four previous election campaigns, he has now decided to vote only for Labor and Rabin. An unidentified speaker follows, stating: "Today is 24 May 1992; good morning to you. An unprecedented act in Israel's politics: Labor candidate for the premiership, Yitzhaq Rabin, is inviting Yitzhaq Shamir for a series of public debates throughout the country. This is what we will deal with this morning, but first, we are presenting Labor's election jingle, in its maiden broadcast: Israel is awaiting Rabin. There is a national consensus. We place the Emet ticket in the ballot box—we want genuine leadership. I have no other land. Israel is my home. I want it different here. Israel is dear to my heart. We, all together, want to change, to open a new era. This time we want to change; we want Labor now. Israel is awaiting Rabin. There is a national consensus. We place the Emet ticket in the ballot box—we want genuine leadership. Israel is awaiting Rabin. Israel wants security. Place the Emet ticket in the ballot box. Rabin is the right man, the right man. Israel is awaiting, is awaiting Rabin—Labor."

The speaker then interviews MK Hayim Ramon, Labor's campaign chairman, who emphasizes that "with the intention of holding a serious and matter-of-fact election campaign, in which the two candidates for the premiership will be receive exposure, I offered three long, serious television debates—one dedicated to social and economic affairs; another to aliyah, absorption, and electoral reform; and the last, just before election day, to peace and security." Ramon declares that Likud's Roni Milo rejected the offer because "the Likud has adopted the clear trend of dwarfing Yitzhaq Shamir's role in this election campaign. They want to hide him." "They do not want to show him to the public, nor do they want to show him on television, and I can understand them. I surely understand Roni Milo. If our lead candidate were Yitzhaq Shamir, I too would have hidden him."

At 0449 GMT Ramon continues, saying that he has appealed to Milo on this issue again since Labor "views this round as direct election for the premiership, because the elected prime minister will determine our future." Ramon "is convinced that most of the public does not want to have Yitzhaq Shamir" as the next prime minister. Ramon has also suggested that Shamir and Rabin appear in public debates throughout the country nightly, "and the public will judge who should lead us in the next four years, which are crucial for the Israeli people." He concludes: "I am afraid the Likud will evade this issue again, but Rabin is waiting for Shamir."

The third ad, at 0452 GMT, is by "the Democratic Israel list—CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], MAPAM [United Workers Party), and Shinuy—whose symbol is Mem, Resh, Tzadiq [Meretz, which also means "energy" in Hebrew]." The ad opens with a statement by Shinuy MK Amnon Rubinstein: "In the coming elections, whoever votes Meretz is casting a double vote in fact. He very is firmly and strongly voting for removing the Likud from office, as well as for what he believes in. He is voting for a fight against ultra-Orthodox and religious coercion; he is voting for peace initiatives; and he is voting for the rule of law, a properly-run government, and for people with personal integrity."

The jingle plays a pun on the word Meretz—energy—and runs as follows: "We are making a big move together, to change, to change the situation. You can, you can; it must, it must happen now. The picture has changed all over the world. Yes, you and I will change the state. We must. A government with Meretz. The strength to make the change [English for Shinuy]. We must. A government with Meretz. The strength to make the change. We have Meretz. A government with Meretz, with all our emphases. A government with Meretz. We have the strength—a government with Meretz—to make the change. A government with Meretz. A government with Meretz. All the Meretz."

Rubinstein continues, listing Meretz' achievements in the opposition, mainly concerning Israel's constitution: Meretz passed in the Knesset two basic laws that protect human rights in Israel. He concludes: "We did all this as an opposition. Now imagine what we will do in a government with Meretz."

Another Likud ad ensues at 0454 GMT, with an unidentified speaker who says that on 23 June, the voter "chooses between Labor, which talks about peace, and the Likud, which makes peace," "between restoring the red flag and the bankrupt socialism, and good living standards with a free and prosperous economy," "between Rabin, a party leader who failed as prime minister, and Shamir, a strong and stable prime minister who maintains the interests of the state. On 23 June, we vote for the Likud." The speaker then elaborates on Operation Solomon, in which the vast majority of Ethiopian Jewry were flown to Israel, a rescue operation "carried out by the Likud government."

The following, second Labor ad at 0456 GMT, features a one-minute statement by Yitzhaq Rabin: "Good morning. Today, 30 days prior to election day, we have entered the final and decisive stage. The public has two candidates for prime minister, and the Israeli people are called on to choose between them. Therefore, I call on Mr. Yitzhaq Shamir today and invite him to face me in a series of public debates throughout the country, each evening, and town after town. Each of us will present his

way, positions, and plans. By so doing we will offer the public standards for the conduct of a serious and businesslike election campaign, free of violence and slander; an election campaign that will deal with the issues that are really important for the Israeli people and which will maintain their unity. I am convinced that this clarifying of positions by the two candidates for prime minister, with each facing the other, is the democratic right of each Israeli citizen. There have been many appeals to the Likud on this matter already, but all have been turned down. Therefore, this time I appeal directly to you Mr. Shamir: The electoral system in Israel is striding toward a direct election of the prime minister, which most of the public wants. I would like to hope that Mr. Shamir will respond to my appeal indeed, and will face me in a series of debates which will be conducted in a businesslike, direct, clear, and honest manner. I am awaiting your response, Mr. Shamir. Good morning."

The first election broadcast ends at 0457 GMT.

New 'Communal Neighborhood' Established in Gaza

TA2605075292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpt] At the end of the week, the Gush Qatif Regional Council, in cooperation with the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza [CJSJSG], plans to move people into 15 trailers placed 1 km from Kibbutz Netzarim in the Gaza Strip, on a site dubbed Netzarim Bet. There are over 60 housing units on the site located near the kibbutz, which was itself established in the mid-1970's by the decision of an Alignment-led government.

The infrastructure work on the site has almost been completed. The 'Amidar building company will today officially turn over the trailers to the first 15 families that will move to the site. Nevertheless, because the electric generator has not yet been installed, the settlers will move into the trailers either on Wednesday or Thursday this week.

The master plan for the settlement, according to which the settlement would consist of some 1,000 households, has not yet been approved. Consequently, it was decided to move 60 trailers to the site in the initial stage and, at the same time, to work on establishing a permanent settlement. Building companies will begin working intensively on the site within the next few months.

CJSJSG spokesman Aharon Domb said this is not a new settlement, but a communal neighborhood designed to strengthen Kibbutz Netzarim, which currently consists of eight families and 15 youths doing their national service. He said the neighborhood would be built around two communal institutions: a premilitary school, similar to the ones in 'Eli in Samaria and Yatir in the southern part of the Hebron Hills, and a yeshiva.

Domb added that since it is an expansion, the establishment of the new neighborhood does not require special government approval and is based on a decision passed by Gaza's supreme planning committee in December 1991. In contrast, a senior source close to Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said: "This is a settlement to all intents and purposes. The settlers will tell you it is an expansion of the first Netzarim in order to bypass the government, but it is a new settlement."

It should be pointed out that new settlements have been established in the last two years near Shilo, Kfar Adumim, and 'Ofarim through this so-called expansion method, thus bypassing the political hurdles that result from U.S. opposition to the establishment of new settlements.

Following is an excerpt of the interview with the source close to Minister Sharon:

[HA'ARETZ] What should the new site be called? A new settlement?

[Answer] You can call it whatever you want; it is all in the eyes of the beholder. The first Netzarim is a kibbutz, while Netzarim Bet will be a city.

[HA'ARETZ] Who approved it?

[Answer] There is no government decision on the establishment of a new settlement, but it is a new settlement. It will be called Netzarim Bet in order to circumvent the government. This method obviates the need for a government decision. We agreed with the settlers that they will say it is an expansion of Netzarim. In practice, however, this is a new settlement that will have a separate local council. As far as we are concerned, the establishment of the site will be a buffer against Palestinian autonomy. The fact that Netzarim will adjoin Gaza will prevent the loss of a definite geographic area in the Gaza Strip to the local Arab population.

[HA'ARETZ] Does the construction and housing minister know about it?

[Answer] The minister knows about it and has approved it.

[HA'ARETZ] Are there plans to establish more new settlements?

[Answer] Not at this point. [passage omitted]

Officials, Groups React to Israeli Raids in South

Birri Warns Israel of 'Heavy Price'

NC2305062392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri said that Israel's aggressions in the south and western al-Biqa' during the past 24 hours are much more dangerous than the invasion. In an interview with AL-HAYAH, he said that Israel will pay a heavy price if it invades the south, due to the resistance it will encounter from the southerners.

Birri added that the purpose of the continued Israeli aggressions is to pressure Lebanon to play a different tune than the Syrian one. Israel, he said, wants an end to Lebanese-Syrian coordination and wants to lead Lebanon to conclude a separate agreement with Israel, especially after having realized the extent of Lebanese-Syrian coordination during the bilateral peace negotiations.

Fadlallah, Qasim Criticize Regime

NC2305071392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah criticized the Lebanese regime's call for halting resistance activity in the south and for depending on diplomatic methods.

His eminence asked: Where are the Lebanese regime's pledges to turn into a resisting force if Israel fails to implement Resolution 425 and withdraw from the south? He noted that the pressures created by resistance operations and their psychological impact triggered the frenzied Zionist military response. He said this response aimed to improve the morale of the Israeli Army and agent Lahd's militia men.

'Allamah Fadlallah said Tel Aviv set out on its barbaric aggression against the people in the al-Biqa' Valley and the south and that the fierceness of the Israeli response reflects the strong impact the resistance operations are inflicting on the Israelis. Therefore, he said, the resistance men are a significant Lebanese factor, because they defeated Israel—even if this defeat took place at a small position—and inflicted heavy losses. He pointed out that the resistance impaired normalization with the enemy and triggered the Palestinian intifadah in Palestine. He called on resistance factions to return to their resistance activity.

For his part, His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, said the Israeli aggression will persist as long as Israel exists and receives full support from America and the major powers—support that facilitates its aggression against villages in the south and the al-Biqa' Valley and helps it at the political level.

In a television interview, his eminence added: We notice that the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon maintains that disturbances, points of pressure, and violent acts in south Lebanon eventually lead to Israeli reaction. Meanwhile, he added, the U.S. State Department refrains from commenting on the Israeli aggression, meaning that the Zionist attacks against our folks and people in the south and al-Biqa' are fully coordinated with the U.S. Administration.

Shaykh Qasim said that it is our duty to make the people understand the truth and the extent of these attacks. He said the only viable way to confront these attacks is to maintain and enhance resistance through cooperation among all parties concerned, regardless of their orientations or positions.

He remarked that killing women and children and destroying homes are examples of Israel's abhorrent actions, which are continued under the nose of Arab, local, and international public opinion. Therefore, we should stand up to this terrorism with all the strength available to us, because the enemy understands absolutely nothing but confrontation, he said.

Responding to a question, the deputy secretary general said: We are supposed to talk about Arab and Muslim reaction to the Israeli aggression instead of talking about an Israeli reaction. It is Israel that starts aggression. It is wrong to talk about the Israeli reaction to what we do, he said. We are only reacting to the Israeli aggression and defending our nation and dignity, which is our natural right.

Commenting on remarks by the enemy's war minister, his eminence said Moshe Arens is trying to fabricate heroic statements to convince his people and the world that he is interested in preserving Israel's security and continued presence in the region, which he accomplished by occupying parts of Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria. He noted that the constant Israeli threats reflect an attempt to forego any world reaction and to spread the notion that Israel is being subjected to injustice. He added, however, that it is the Zionist occupation that commits unjust and harmful acts.

Asked about a possible wide-scale Israeli operation that might lead to war in the region, Shaykh Qasim said: After their experience in the 1982 devastation of Lebanon and the confrontation they encountered with the mujahidin of the resistance—particularly the suicide and qualitative operations—the Israelis realize that there are brave heroes who will stand up to them. The enemy is too scared to contemplate devastation similar to that of 1982 or to wage an open war with the mujahidin by directly entering the land.

The Hizballah secretary general called on the government to give priority to supporting the resistance and enhancing the people's steadfastness and to providing a favorable atmosphere for the Lebanese Army so that it can perform its duty of defending the land. He said that when the government does this, it will not be doing anyone a favor but rather doing the least of its duties to defend this land. He asserted that the government so far has been very negligent. We hope the new government

will realize its responsibility in this connection and that the Cabinet will discuss the situation in the south and western al-Biqa' to find ways to confront the enemy in practice, he concluded.

Al-Sulh Comments on Cabinet Meeting

NC2305123292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1057 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] The meeting of the Supreme Defense Council—which began at 1315 today immediately following the Cabinet meeting—ended a few minutes ago. The meeting was chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and attended by Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh; Defense Minister Michel al-Murr; Army Commander General Emile Lahhud; Economy Minister Marwan Hamadah; Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz; Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib; Finance Minister As'ad Diyab; and Defense Council Secretary General Brigadier General Yahya Ra'd. A few minutes ago, the prime minister made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Al-Sulh] The Cabinet met this morning—as the information minister already told you—and discussed the issue of the south and al-Biqa' and the criminal Israeli aggressions against these two parts of the Lebanese territory. The Cabinet denounced the Israeli criminal actions and aggressive intentions. The foreign minister and other Lebanese officials held the necessary contacts through the UN Security Council and foreign ambassadors in Lebanon about what needs to be done. At the same time, orders and instructions have been issued to all Lebanese institutions to support the steadfastness of our brothers in the south and al-Biqa' and provide them with all available means so they can stay on their land and stand fast in the face of these Israeli aggressions.

We also discussed in the Cabinet the policy statement, which was approved. We will seek a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies next week.

The Supreme Defense Council also held a meeting attended by military officials. We discussed this subject and decided to extend strong support to our brothers in the south and al-Biqa' to face these aggressions and to remain in their land, because the Israeli conspiracy's aim is to drive our people out of the south and al- Biqa' and inflict extensive damage. These Israeli criminal actions—which were not preceded by actions from any Lebanese group—are considered acts of direct aggression by Israel and are designed, as I have already said, to force the largest number of our Lebanese brothers to leave their land.

I must say that the Lebanese Army is fulfilling its national duty the best it can and is standing fast, together with our Lebanese brothers there, in the face of the Israeli aggression.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, has a decision been made to [words indistinct] Lebanese Army?

[Al-Sulh] The Lebanese Army is fulfilling its role the best it can in defending Lebanese territory. [end recording]

Council of Ministers Denounces Attacks

NC2305111892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1023 GMT 23 May 92

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after a Cabinet meeting in the Presidential Office on 23 May—recorded]

[Text] [Samahah] The Council of Ministers met this morning under the chairmanship of his excellency the president of the Republic and in the presence of his excellency the prime minister and ministers.

The Council of Ministers studied the repeated brutish and barbaric Israeli attacks against the south and western al-Biqa', denouncing these attacks. It took note of the measures adopted by the Foreign Ministry to refer the matter to the international organization and of the instructions given in this connection by their excellencies the president and prime minister, and it gave the orders to carry out these instructions.

The Council of Ministers stressed the need to provide all types of support necessary for the steadfastness of our people in the south and western al-Biqa' regarding the occupation troops and their schemes.

The National Defense Council is currently in session to study the situation in the south and western al-Biqa' and adopt the necessary measures.

The Council later discussed the draft Cabinet statement that was prepared by the drafting committee. Each minister made his observations about the text. The Council adopted the majority of these observations and tasked the committee with preparing the final statement.

His excellency the prime minister will contact his excellency the Chamber of Deputies speaker to notify him of the government's readiness to come before the Chamber and seek a vote of confidence on the basis of the Cabinet statement. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, regarding the Cabinet statement that was prepared by the drafting committee at a meeting yesterday, is there any information on this? [Samahah] Once the statement is ready, it will be referred to the Chamber of Deputies.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the statement is ready?
[Samahah] Yes.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, was there full consensus about the Cabinet statement, or were there differences?
[Samahah] There are absolutely no differences about the Cabinet statement.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] in the Cabinet statement in support of the resistance in the south?

[Samahah] When you read the Cabinet statement you will find the answers to all these questions.

[Correspondent] Did you discuss the position of the absent ministers?
[Samahah] The absent ministers [words indistinct]. This matter will be followed up by their excellencies the president and the prime minister.

[Indistinct question]
[Samahah] You will learn about it at the Chamber of Deputies.

[Indistinct question]
[Samahah] There are absolutely no differences. What was circulated this morning was untrue. There are no differences whatsoever. The draft Cabinet statement has been unanimously endorsed after discussion and after taking note of remarks.

[Correspondent] Did his excellency the foreign minister brief you about the [word indistinct] of the American counsel?
[Samahah] There was no American counsel. There was a Lebanese stand about liberating our land, filing a complaint about the aggression, and demanding international intervention to end the brutish attacks against our people and land. Thank you.

U.S. Call for Restraint Dismissed

NC2305184792 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 23 May 92

[Excerpt] Beirut, May 23 (AFP)—Lebanese parliamentary speaker Husayn Husayni on Saturday dismissed Washington's call for restraint in recent clashes between Hizballah guerrillas and Israeli troops, saying he was "proud" of anti-Israeli resistance.

Husayni was speaking amid renewed tension in south Lebanon, where Israel shelled Hizballah positions after coming under Katyusha rocket fire in its self-declared "security zone."

"I am proud to support the resistance (fighters) who are battling an army occupying our land," Husayni told AFP.

"The resistance will cease the day Israel withdraws (from southern Lebanon) in line with UN Security Council Resolution 425. Only then will the Lebanese Government seize the weapons (held by Hizballah) and guarantee security in south Lebanon." [passage omitted]

Nasrallah: U.S. Responsible for Attacks

NC2405064592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah said that the current Zionist escalation and brutal attacks against our people in the south and western al-Biqa' are living examples that the occupation represents a persistent aggressive force. Speaking to reporters yesterday after a visit to the homes of martyrs Ahmad al-Sharqawi and Nasir al-Laqis, his eminence said aggression can only be stopped by eliminating the occupation, which is the underlying cause of the persisting problem.

He asserted that the positions that Washington officials expressed show that Washington is directly responsible for the aggressive Zionist acts and for providing a political cover for these attacks. When U.S. officials demand a halt to resistance activity and disarming the Lebanese resistance, they only seek to conceal the truth and provide justification for the aggression, Nasrallah said.

The Hizballah secretary general said the resistance is a matter of duty for a people who are victims of injustice and aggression, while the occupation is a blatant form of aggression that violates all rules and laws. Before talking about halting resistance activity, action should be taken to end the aggression by eliminating the occupation, particularly since the world knows that the weapons being used against our people in the south and al-Biqa' are U.S. weapons supplied constantly to Israel in a manner that reveals that America is inciting aggression against us.

Nasrallah added: If Washington wants to pressure the Lebanese Government to clash with the resistance, the government should not capitulate to this pressure and these suspicious attempts. The officials concerned should form a consensus about supporting and strengthening the resistance. He said this should be reflected clearly in official positions, particularly in Cabinet statements.

We demand that those who said all of Lebanon would turn into a resisting force honor their promises, Nasrallah said.

His eminence concluded that the magnitude of the Israeli aggression and threats and the American pressure must prompt us to be more cohesive and to seek to consolidate the collective political, national, and Muslim positions. He called on Arab and Muslim states, institutions, powers, people, and governments to steadfastly support our just cause.

Baydun, Hawi Comment on Situation

NC2405100792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Water and Electricity Resources Minister Muhammad Baydun said that the purpose of the Israeli aggression in the south and western al-Biqa' is to keep Lebanon from raising the issue of UN Resolution 425. He also noted that there has been continuous major Israeli escalation, referring to threats by Israeli officials. These threats are directed at the positions of Lebanon and Syria and designed to draw them into a different type of negotiations not based on UN resolutions, which we reject, he said.

Baydun said the resistance is carrying out its duty, which expresses the Lebanese people's adherence to their right

in their land. He added that Israel is using Hizballah as a pretext. Hizballah is one of several resistance parties that have a popular base. He affirmed that the Lebanese Government makes the decisions in the south.

Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi called on the Lebanese Army to fight alongside the resistance to defend Lebanon, because the people have confidence in it and in its national command. He also called on the Lebanese Government to act in two directions: First, to reject the U.S. and Israeli conditions, and second, to raise Lebanon's case in international forums that can provide moral and material support to enable Lebanon to stand fast in the face of Israeli attacks.

In an interview with the Voice of the People radio, Hawi appealed to the Arab League to assist Lebanon in its solitary confrontation of the aggression. He said: Lebanon is fighting in defense of its cause and the Arab cause as a whole.

Syrian Troops Deployed in al-Biqa'

NC2405150792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Syrian forces reinforced their positions on the eastern front of the Syrian-Lebanese border as a precautionary measure against any widescale Israeli operation against Lebanon.

Lebanese military sources said that 3,000 Syrian troops backed by tanks and armored cars were deployed to al-Biqa' Valley. The sources noted that the Syrian reinforcements are being introduced at a time when Israel is reinforcing its forces along the border strip in southern Lebanon. The Israeli buildup forced some 8,000 Lebanese to leave their villages in al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Al-Sulh Briefed on South

NC2405153792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Visitors of Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh cite him as saying that the government's main priority is the situation in the south and the economic problem.

Al-Sulh today followed up the situation in al-Biqa' and the south and was briefed by the security leadership about developments in these areas. The prime minister said he will work toward achieving a safe life, justice, and freedom.

Interior Minister Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib asserted that adherence to resistance as a national option is irreversible as long as Israel continues to occupy our land.

During an inspection tour of western al-Biqa', al-Khatib said that the current phase is difficult and that the first priority is to confront the enemy. He noted: The battle with the enemy is a prolonged one, but we are strong because we are right and we will continue to exercise this right until the land is liberated.

Nasrallah: Resistance 'Until the End'

NC2505073292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah toured the homes of the martyrs who fell in the recent Israeli raid on Janta. He offered his condolences to the martyrdom of this group of mujahidin, reiterating his determination to carry on the jihad march and resistance until all the lands are liberated from the Zionist occupation.

At the end of the tour, his eminence visited the resting place of the master of Islamic Resistance martyrs [reference to former Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi], where he read verses from the Koran. Speaking to our radio, his eminence said:

[Begin recording] I was honored today to visit the families of the dear mujahidin martyrs who lost their lives in the recent brutal Zionist raid on Janta. I visited the martyrs families in the city of al-Hirmil and the [name indistinct] township in [words indistinct]. I found the morale high and the determination strong among the martyrs' families, brothers, and relatives, which enhances our determination to carry on with this blessed march with the help of the Almighty.

In these homes, we found the blessings of the martyrs' blood and the strugglers' jihad. We saw how this blood strengthens determination and how our people hold these martyrs in esteem.

As I stand before the tomb of the master of the Islamic resistance martyrs, his wife, and child, I reiterate that we, in this jihad movement, will take this road until the end, regardless of the great sacrifices.

We believe that blood strengthens awareness and determination like nothing else. I repeat what the master of the Islamic resistance martyrs used to quote from Imam Khomeyni: Kill us and our people's awareness will be strengthened. Our people in Lebanon know today more than ever that the only way to stop the aggression, confront the occupation, restore the lands and sanctities, and safeguard this nation's dignity and resources is through resistance, jihad, martyrdom, and strength rather than negotiations or toadying to America and Israel. The blood of our martyrs further enhances this awareness among our people. We demand that all those who speak negatively about the resistance show us another way to preserve our land, waters, resources, sanctions, dignity, and pride. There is absolutely no other option. The only road is that which genuine Islam, the imam of the nation, and the master of the Islamic Resistance martyrs have ordered us to take. It is the road that was paved by the blood and sacrifices of the martyrs of the Islamic Resistance.

We will take that road until the end, regardless of the American and Israeli threats that we hear every day—threats to bombard positions, bases, and homes and to

kill leaders. When we set out on that road, we knew the great sacrifices required to achieve victory and realize the holy goals.

In order to restore morale to the Agent Lahd army in the occupied region in Lebanon, the Israeli enemy bombarded residential areas and killed women and children in the most cowardly raids. This enemy weakens vis-a-vis the mujahidin's determination when it kills women and children and when it bombards safe villages and residential areas. The enemy is incapable of confronting the mujahidin in the field of battle, because it lacks the courage to engage in an honorable face-to-face confrontation with these mujahidin.

We call on our people and our Arab and Muslim nation to show more commitment to and belief in this option. They should trust beyond doubt that this road will lead to the inevitable God-guided victory, God willing. [end recording]

Israeli 25 May Raids Summarized

NC2505075892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 May 92

[Excerpts] Israeli aircraft carried out three raids against Hizballah bases in the south this morning.

The first raid, which began at around 0630, was against Qasr Nassur in the Jibshit township. Yasir Nassur, a local Hizballah official, his wife Huda Mahmud Harb, and his two daughters Batul and Dunyia were killed in the raid. A number of people were wounded, including, Rida Harb, and were taken to al-Najdah Hospital in al-Nabatiyah.

The raid completely destroyed the Nassur home and damaged the nearby al-Sanabil television station's sets and equipment.

The second raid, carried out at 0650 this morning, targeted Wadi Ma'rub and al-Hallufiyah in the western sector. The Israelis suspected that a Hizballah base was located in the region. No casualties were reported in that raid.

According to our correspondent, the third raid was carried out at around 0800 against an area between Tulin and Qabrikha. [passage omitted]

Security sources monitored new Israeli reinforcements in the security strip in the past few hours.

The raids caused a heavy exodus from the region, particularly from 'Ayn Bu Siowar, 'Arab Salim, Jarju', Kafr Rumman, Kafra, and Yatar, in the direction of the city of Tyre.

Israeli Helicopters Fire Missiles

NC2505081192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Two Israeli helicopter gunships fired three wire-guided Milano missiles at Jamil Milhim's house in Majdal Silm in the Bint Jubayl district at 0800 today. The family miraculously escaped harm. Earlier, seven Israeli helicopter gunships attacked Dirdghayya at 0700 today.

Al-Sulh Comments on Attacks

NC2505130592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 May 92

[Statement by Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, followed by remarks in response to a question by an unidentified correspondent, in Beirut on 25 May—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sulh] The blatant Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon continued last night and this morning, targeting innocent civilians and southern villages. The Israeli forces attacked these villages with artillery and planes in order to force the inhabitants to flee their homes and to kill innocent people. A man and his two children were killed in Jibshit. These Israeli crimes prove the aggressive intentions of a country founded on aggression against Arabs, wherever they may be.

The government has asked its UN ambassador to submit an urgent complaint to the UN Security Council and to contact UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali immediately to ask him to intervene to stop the Israeli attacks on our brothers in the south, especially considering that these attacks have occurred against peaceful villages located in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon area of operations.

At the same time, the government is determined to confront these attacks, to support our brothers in the south, and to extend whatever aid they need to remain steadfast in their land, defending not only the south but also Lebanon and the whole Arab homeland.

This morning I met with the Russian, Italian, and Kuwaiti ambassadors and discussed these matters with them at length. I urged them to ask their governments to support Lebanon's complaint and to pressure Israel to stop its attacks on southern Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Will the government take further measures?.
[Al-Sulh] We will wait and see what happens at the UN Security Council. In the meantime, we will undertake other urgent endeavors and measures to put an end to these attacks on our brothers in the south.

Buwayz Contacts Envoy To UN

NC2505114592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that he contacted Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations, today and asked him to emphasize Lebanon's complaint. Makkawi requested an appointment with the UN secretary general to brief him on the Israeli acts of aggression.

Asked if Lebanon requested that the Security Council convene, Buwayz said: We are still considering the issue.

SLA's Lahd Issues Warning

NC2505120992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd held a news conference today in which he said: The current situation is very serious, and I believe it is necessary to draw the Lebanese Government's attention to its responsibility.

What is happening in the south now, he added, is the state's responsibility; it should curb Hizballah's unbridled acts. Lahd warned that the threat is very real and that all Lebanese could be scared due to the current problems. He said: The fear is that if a real fight breaks out, Hizballah will not be the only organization destroyed—the Army, the state, and more could be as well. Now that we have given this warning, there will be no excuse, he said.

Gen. Lahd added: The state's adoption of the so-called resistance is tantamount to making the inhabitants of the south vulnerable to further destruction and death.

Israeli Forces Moved Into Buffer Zone

NC2505130492 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, May 25 (AFP)—The Israeli Army moved tanks, supply vehicles and 500 troops into its buffer zone in south Lebanon Monday after Israeli warplanes raided pro-Iranian guerrilla positions, security sources said.

Fifty-five vehicles, including tanks, troop transports and supply trucks, moved into Israel's self-declared "security zone," where the Israeli military presence has already been boosted since Friday, the sources said.

The reports of reinforcements came after Israeli warplanes carried out two raids Monday on what it said were bases of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement in south Lebanon. Israeli attacks against the movement killed 14 people last week, including six Hizballah fighters.

Lahd Says Situation 'Very Serious'

NC2505143092 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Major General Antoine Lahd said that the situation is very serious north of the border strip area. He advised the Lebanese Government to take the Israeli warnings seriously.

Responsible military sources told our correspondent that the areas attacked by the Israeli Air Force this morning were all terrorist bases of Hizballah and the faithful resistance. The house of engineer Haj Yasir Maksur, a Hizballah official who is known as the organizer of Hizballah's terrorist activity, was attacked in Jibshit. Key Hizballah figures and members of the so-called resistance used to meet in his house. In Dirdghayya, the house of 'Ali Husayn 'Ali Shuraym, official responsible for the faithful resistance, was attacked. His house was used for planning terrorist operations. In Majdal Silm, the house of Muhammad Milhim, who is very well known among the people as a Hizballah official, was attacked. He has used his house as a command center and office for paying the salaries of Hizballah members in the area.

Our correspondent added that the military sources have expressed their regret over the loss of innocent lives, but at the same time they emphasized that they have warned and advised to no avail. Had the residents of Jibshit, Dirdghayya, and Majdal Silm listened to what the Voice of the South radio said last night, they would have kept away from the terrorist centers and bases. The Voice of the South radio repeats this advice: The bases, offices, and installations of Hizballah and other terrorist organizations constitute military targets, and anyone found in the area will be exposing himself to danger.

Iqlim al-Tuffah Area Raided

NC2605090292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0847 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

Israeli warplanes raided the Iqlim al-Tuffah area a few minutes ago. The Israeli raids began at 1130 and were targeted against Mlita, Jabal Safi, and the 'Ayn Bu Siwar hills. The Israeli planes dropped two air-to-surface missiles during every raid. The Israeli planes continue to fly over the attacked areas.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0853 GMT on 26 May reports the following: "We have just learned that the Israeli warplanes are continuing their air raids against 'Arab Salim, 'Ayn Bu-Siwar, Mlita, and Jabal Safi. The Lebanese Army ground defenses are confronting the raiding planes."]

'Fierce Air Raids' in South

NC2605092292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0910 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] We have received the following report from the news desk:

Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah just reported that the Israeli aircraft are now carrying out fierce air raids on the hills of Mlita, Jabal Safi, Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Jba'.

[Paris AFP in English at 0905 GMT on 26 May reports the following: "Israeli warplanes on Tuesday launched several large-scale raids against positions held by the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement in the Iqlim al-Tuffah ridge east of this port city, an AFP correspondent reported. The raids by about six fighter-bombers began at 11:30 A.M. (0830 GMT) and targeted the villages of Jarju', Mlita and the Jabal Safi sector near Israel's self-declared 'security zone.'"]

Habash Group Preparing Naval Operation

NC2605101892 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Our correspondent cited responsible security sources as saying that senior officers of the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade deployed in east Sidon areas are assisting the Palestinian terrorists from the George Habash organization [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] in their training to carry out a terrorist naval operation from Tyre. The training is being conducted in Sidon, specifically at Sidon Port. Muslim personnel from Sidon are taking part in the training.

The security sources added that they are fully aware of what is taking place and that they will step in at the appropriate time and in the way they deem fit.

Syrians Fire at Israeli Planes

JN2605104692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1035 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] We have just received the following: An AFP correspondent said a short while ago that the Syrian antiaircraft artillery in Lebanese al-Biqa' fired at Israeli aircraft that overflew this area.

Hizballah Positions Destroyed

NC2605112192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1052 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] A Lebanese military source in the south stated that a squadron of 12 Israeli F-16 aircraft bombarded and destroyed nine Hizballah positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The raids killed three and wounded 12 fighters and civilians, according to preliminary figures.

Our radio correspondents in the south have reported that the Lebanese Army's ground defenses fired at the raiding planes. At around 1220, the Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over the capital and the suburbs.

According to security reports from the south, the Lebanese Army's position in Habbush came under machinegun fire from Tallat al- Suwayda'. An AFP report says that Syrian anti-aircraft guns opened their fire at the Israeli planes during their sorties over Ba'labakk at around 1300 today.

Foreign Minister Cited on Peace Process, Lebanon

JN2605061992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that Syria is committed to the peace process and that it is serious in pursuing it to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

During yesterday's meeting with correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, al-Shar' added: It is normal, therefore, that Syria does not seek a confrontation or war. But if Israel imposed war on Syria, Syria would have no choice but to confront it.

Al-Shar' said: The escalating Israeli attacks on Lebanon and the accompanying threats of war aim to kill the peace process and bury it for good—especially since the Shamir government's continued attempts to stop the peace process through evasion, procrastination, and provocation of the Arab side have failed.

Al-Shar' added that the Israeli attacks on Lebanon also aim to return Lebanon to civil war, now that the Lebanese have made an important stride in the national reconciliation march and in uniting the institutions of the Lebanese state, foremost being unifying the Lebanese Army. Al-Shar' said that the Likud Party believes that it will score gains in its election campaign through war and sanguinary actions. Al-Shar' said that everyone knows that the Lebanese resistance exists and that it has been active for years, ever since Israel occupied parts of southern Lebanon, particularly since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Everyone also knows that clashes between Lebanese resistance men and Israeli occupation forces have not stopped ever since. There has been nothing new in this regard, because the arrogant occupation and the hostility of the Israeli occupation forces constitute strong incentives for the resistance. These incentives can only be canceled when the occupation is eliminated.

Al-Shar' also said: The Lebanese Government, as is known, acts in accordance with the Arab- and internationally-supported al-Ta'if Agreement. It does not act upon anyone's dictation. An article in the al-Ta'if Agreement states that the Lebanese Government must take all measures toward liberating southern Lebanon and implementing Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Al-Shar' added: The Lebanese Government has—more than once—stressed its readiness to dispatch Lebanese Army units and deploy them up to the Israeli-Lebanese international borders. The government actually dispatched Lebanese Army units last summer to cooperate with UN forces in protecting the borders. Israel, however, did all it could and used force to prevent the Lebanese Army from attaining this objective.

Australia's Evans Holds Talks With al-Shar'

JN2205125392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] At noon today, a round of talks was held between Syria, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Australia, led by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by the minister's assistant, Yusuf Shakkur, and 'Abd-al-Wadud Atasi, director of the Asia Department at the Foreign Ministry. On the Australian side, the meeting was attended by Powell Rubiniar the minister's adviser, and Michael Landel, the ambassador at the Foreign Ministry [names and titles as heard] and the Australian Ambassador in Damascus Victoria Owen.

The talks centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict, progress in the peace process, the importance of implementing the relevant UN resolutions, and the situation in Lebanon.

The talks also covered bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them, and issues of mutual interest.

Evans and his wife arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and the Australian ambassador in Damascus and the Embassy staff.

Meets With al-Asad, Departs

JN2205151092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad met with Gareth Evans, Australian foreign affairs and trade minister, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Australian Ambassador in Damascus Victoria Owen.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the situation in the region, the Australian minister's regional tour, and the peace process.

Evans expressed appreciation for Syria's policy and its constructive and positive position on the peace process.

President al-Asad emphasized that Syria—which opened the door to the peace process—is committed to this process, despite the obstacles and difficulties Israel is placing along the road to a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions.

The president said the progress of the peace process has exposed the Israeli rulers' false claims of a desire for peace.

Meanwhile, Evans and his wife left Damascus this evening at the end of a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Evans was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and the Australian ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

Afghanistan

Mas'ud, Hekmatyar Agree To Cease Hostilities

BK2505155492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 25 (AFP)—Rival mojahedin leaders Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Golboddin Hekmatyar Monday agreed to end hostilities, pull out forces from Kabul and hold elections in six months.

The agreement was announced at a joint meeting addressed by the two after a marathon seven-hour face-to-face meeting outside Kabul.

"Modus operandi and the time-frame of the pull-out of the forces will be decided by a (mojahedin) commission," said a joint statement issued after the Hekmatyar-Mas'ud agreement was inked at the camp of the holdout mojahedin leader.

"The two-month term of the present (Afghan) interim government will not be extended," the announcement said.

The statement said elections in Afghanistan would be held to ensure there was "no vacuum of power" in the country after the expiry of the interim government's term.

The interim government took power April 28 from Kabul's communist regime.

Hekmatyar and Mas'ud addressed a joint press conference after signing the agreement at a meeting held at Hekmatyar's base some 20 kilometres (12 miles) outside Kabul.

"The two-month term of the present (Afghan) interim government headed by President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi will not be extended," their joint statement said.

Elections would be held to ensure there was no power vacuum after a period of six months, but that in the light of the "unpredictable situation" the poll could be postponed after consultations between the two sides, the landmark announcement said.

The statement, which came amid intense fighting in Kabul's southern edge, said the security of the capital would be ensured by the mojahedin "of small parties" which would function under the Afghan Interior Ministry.

Monday's face-to-face meeting was the first between the two former arch-rivals since October 1990 when Mas'ud visited Pakistan and met with the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction chief at his camp in Peshawar.

Joint Commission To Plan Election

LD2505174792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Following seven hours of direct talks today between Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, the two sides reached a final agreement to resolve their disputes.

According to a report sent by a Voice of the Islamic Republic correspondent from Kabul, the eight-article agreement stresses the need to solve existing differences, and mentions that the holding of elections as soon as possible will be the most appropriate way to remove differences.

On the basis of this agreement, a joint commission comprised of the two sides' forces will decide on the timing and conduct of the elections.

Another article of the agreement that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Hekmatyar signed mentions that the complete departure of the Northern Unity [niruha-ye etehad-e shomal] forces and General Dostum's militia will take place when the Leadership Council is capable of safeguarding Kabul's security.

Uzbek-Mojahedin Skirmishes Reported 25 May

BK2505082292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 25 (AFP)—Fighting erupted again in Kabul overnight between Uzbek militia and opposition mojahedin guerrillas, leaving several people dead, residents and guerrilla sources said Monday.

Uzbek fighters of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam clashed for several hours with guerrillas of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami late Sunday in the city's three southern districts, they said.

Hekmatyar insists that the militia leave Kabul, saying he will not participate in the interim government that came to power with their help a month ago unless they do.

"At least 18 Dostam men were killed in the fighting," said a spokesman from Hekmatyar's headquarters in the prime minister's office here.

The spokesman said he did not have exact details of the fighting, nor would he give details of casualties suffered by the Hezb guerrillas in Kabul's Bin Hissar, Kalauchar and Shau Shahid Districts.

Residents from Bin Hissar told reporters that there was no electricity in the area when the fighting broke out.

"There were many civilian casualties," said one resident, adding that the two sides fought with rockets and guns from their respective bunkers.

Dostam has placed his men in the south of the city to keep the Islamic fundamentalist fighters out, but the residents said the Hezb guerrillas had occupied portions of the three districts.

Sunday's fighting followed shelling of the area Thursday and Friday despite a neutral mojahedin commission's announcement that the battle for Kabul had ended.

Hospitals in Kabul report receiving several casualties and injured people every day from the city's suburbs where rival guerrillas are entrenched in face-to-face positions.

Sporadic shelling in the south continued Monday, but details of casualties were not known.

"We are trying to find out," said another official from Hezb's headquarters here.

Mojahedin Storm UN Complex in Kabul

BK2305184892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1749 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 23 (AFP)—Afghan mojahedin stormed another United Nations complex and posted their men there Saturday after warning local officials of the world body earlier that they needed places to accommodate their personnel.

The mojahedin have looted or occupied a number of UN offices or houses here since taking over Kabul after the ouster of the communist regime on April 28.

Witnesses said guerrillas from an unidentified mojahedin faction seized one of the two UN-hired buildings in the Afghan capital without resorting to violence.

Also located in the same area was the official residence of the interim Afghan Government's defence minister, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the witnesses said.

"We had received wearnings that they would take the UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) office building," said a UN source.

Iranian Envoy Meets With Mas'ud 23 May

LD2305142392 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 23, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran's envoy Mahmud Musavi and Defence Minister of the Afghan interim government Ahmad Shah Mas'ud discussed current developments in Afghanistan and other parts of the region.

During the meeting which took place Friday night, the two men also discussed ways of promoting Tehran-Kabul cooperation as well as other matters of mutual interest.

Musavi, here since last Tuesday, has already met with some other mojahedin leaders and officials of the interim govenment.

Harakat Official Prevents Mas'ud Passage 23 May

BK2305144892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 23 (AFP)—Afghanistan's two leading mojahedin commanders failed to hold a planned meeting Saturday after a third commander failed to allow one of them to pass, a spokesman said.

The meeting between Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defence minister in Kabul's interim government, and holdout fundamentalist Golboddin Hekmatyar at a neutral zone was suspended in the presence of reporters.

"This place was agreed upon by both sides," a Hekmatyar spokesman said, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of Kabul, adding that the local commander was not allowing Mas'ud to enter.

The unnamed commander from the pro-West Harakat Islami mojahedin faction, who control a section of east Kabul, had prohibited Mas'ud from driving to the site where heavily armed guerrillas from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami waited for the meeting to begin.

The Hekmatyar spokesman said the independent commander had cited security problems involved in holding the meeting in an open place as the main reason for preventing it. He added that the Hezb-e Eslami was "not happy" with what it felt was a pretext.

He also said Hekmatyar was "close by" the meeting zone, adding that the radical leader was now planning to go by road to meet his arch rival, Mas'ud.

"It is just a technical problem. It is nothing very serious and we hope they will meet tomorrow," said Mas'ud's spokesman, Mohammad Yunes Qanor, in Kabul later.

The independent commander holding sections of south-east Kabul's Pol-e Charkhi District was not available for comment, but his troops manned a checkpoint set up between the city and the meeting site.

"Please accept our apologies," Hekmatyar's spokesman, Gharat Bahir, told reporters at the site located on a dried-up river where guerrillas with machine guns and rockets hid behind rocks to prevent a possible ambush.

The holding of talks between Mas'ud and Hekmatyar are seen here as a means towards easing tension between their two factions. Possible meetings between the two men have been called off several times since last Saturday, reportedly because of disputes over meeting grounds.

"This was a mutually agreed area," said Bahir, who appeared embarrassed when reporters asked how a small commander could prevent two top Afghan leaders, each with thousands of men, from holding face-to-face talks.

The spokesman for Mas'ud said the meeting between the two had been arranged by Saudi Prince Abdullah Naef, now in Kabul, shuttling between the camps of the two rivals.

Naef's men as well as other unidentified groups were seen returning from the meeting zone after the Harakat commander broke up the plan.

Hekmatyar insists that Mas'ud's ally, militia commander 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, pull out his Uzbek militia men from Kabul as a precondition to his participation in the interim administration which took over here April 28.

Mas'ud has said the Uzbeks would be withdrawn only if he was assured that Kabul would not be attacked in future.

Mas'ud and Hekmatyuar agreed to meet a day after interim President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi promoted several figures, including Dostam to full general, prompting the Hezb-e to react angrily.

"Mojaddedi has no right to do (this) as these people deserve neither praise nor promotions," the Hezb spokesman had said earlier Saturday.

The Hezb and the Uzbeks have fought several skirmishes since Thursday, but the two mutually hostile groups stopped firing at each other's bases Friday following mediation by neutral groups.

Mojaddedi Promotes Uzbek Militia Leader Dostam

BK2305074592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0720 GMT 23 May 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty and Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Kabul, May 23 (AFP)—Afghanistan's new Islamic government has promoted a controversial Uzbek militia commander and other generals who paved the way for the ouster of Kabul's communist regime, officials said Saturday.

Interim Afghan President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi promoted 'Abdol Rashid Dostam to full general in a ceremony in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif Friday, calling him a great Islamic warrior who helped install the mojahedin government April 28 in Kabul.

"You are a great mojahid," the officials quoted Mojaddedi as saying in Mazar where he went Thursday to meet members of his government.

Dostam's militia, who joined with northern mojahedin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, head of the Jamiat-e Eslami faction and now defence minister, are a bitter foe of mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar who wants the Uzbeks out of Kabul as a pre-condition to his joining the 51-member interim government.

The indisciplined militia have been accused of plundering Kabul after the fall of ousted president Najibollah, but the Jamiat-e Eslami dominated administration has so far not accepted Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami demands.

Kabul's television interupted a midnight broadcast to make the special announcement awarding the promotion of Dostam, a fierce fighter presently guarding Kabul against Hekmatyar's guerrillas.

"We will make no comment on the promotion, we are studying it," said Hezb spokesman Ghairat Bahir, a son-in-law of Hekmatyar who is headquartered in the prime minister's office in Kabul, seized by the group.

The 70-year-old interim president also promoted Dostam's 14th division commander, Jora Begh, from colonel general to major general and several other Uzbek staff officers who participated in the lightening strike to prevent the Hezb takeover of Kabul after the fall of the Soviet-installed communist regime.

The commander of the former regime's 70th Brigade based in the province of Herat, was also promoted from major general to lieutenant general for his pivotal role in the Islamic coup, the officials said.

Mojadeddi, whose decisions in the past have been criticized during his tenure as chief of the mojahedin exiled government in Pakistan, has also promoted Jafar Nadeiri, Ismaili sect leader of the 80th Division stationed in the northern province of Balkh, they added.

It was not immediately knoywhether Mojadeddi had the open support of Mas'ud, a legendary commander whose bastion of influence is also in the north where the promoted generals hold sway.

Mas'ud and Mojaddedi are riding on Dostam's back in the country's fluid military situation, and observers said Friday's promotions had drawn the battle lines clearly between Hekmatyar and the rest.

Dostam's troops are in control of vital installations in Kabul including the airport, the city's southern perimeters and sections of its eastern flank.

The tough Uzbek fighters clashed Thursday and Friday with Hezb guerrillas amid reports the skirmishes occured after Hekmatyar's men tried to enter Kabul.

Hekmatyar's number two, Qutboddin Hilal, has blamed the militia for the skirmishes claiming Dostam wanted to "sabotage" a peace effort designed to enforce the pullout of opposing troops from Kabul.

Mojaddedi's announcement came two days after a powerful mojahedin commission announced a "permanent" end to the battle for Kabul and called for the withdrawal of all opposing forces from the city and handing over of heavy weapons to the interim government.

The proposed withdrawal was scheduled to begin Saturday and commission chief Jalaluddin Haqqani has said it should be completed within a week to enable a neutral force to guard the capital.

Hezb spokesman Ghairat Bahir said Saturday there was "a 90 percent possibility" of a face to face meeting between Hekmatyar and Mas'ud at a undisclosed location later in the day.

The vital meeting has been postponed repeatedly in the last week or so for unspecified reasons.

Hezb-e Eslami Denounces Promotion

BK2305080292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 23 (AFP)—The Hezb-e Eslami faction of hardline mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar Saturday denounced interim President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's decision to promote some generals who served under the ousted communist regime.

"Mojaddedi has no authority to do so," a Hezb spokesman here said.

The moderate president of the three-week old Afghan mojahedin government promoted controversial Uzbek militia commander 'Abdol Rashid Dostam to full general and raised several other officers who paved the way for the collapse of Najibollah regime last month.

In an official statement the Hezb spokesman also slammed Mojaddedi for calling Dostam a "great mojahedin."

Those promoted "deserve neither praise nor promotion, he said. [quotation mark as received]

Calling them mojahedin "is an insult to mojahedin," he said claiming that Mojaddedi, 70, had humiliated the Moslem warriors who fought against the former communist forces.

The Hezb-e "strongly oppose" the promotions, the spokesman said.

Rabbani Leaves Kabul for Visit to Herat

LD2205201992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, left for Herat province this morning at the head of a delegation.

At Herat Airport, the delegation was welcomed with great enthusiasm by esteemed Major General Mohammad Esmael; esteemed Alahoddin, commander of the Herat division; a number of ulema, elders, and prominent figures of the Southwest Zone; and a large crowd of people. A BAKHTAR correspondent adds that esteemed Professor Rabbani will meet with the leadership of Herat province, Jihadi commanders, leading figures, and the people of the Southwest Zone.

According to a BAKHTAR report, esteemed Professor Rabbani and his accompanying delegation were seen off at Kabul International Airport by several members of the Jihadi Council and Jihadi commanders, a number of ulema, and leaders and representatives of Kabul city.

Hekmatyar Holds Talks With Khalis

LD2205155292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] A correspondent from the Radio Message of Freedom reports that esteemed Muhammad Yunes Khalis met Mojahed Hekmatyar, amir of the Hezb-e Eslami, in the Sorobi region.

At this meeting talks were held for about two hours on the current situation in Kabul. The report adds that both leaders have similar views regarding the issues. Mojahed Hekmatyar said he was satisfied with the talks with Khalis and their views were similar on all issues.

Mr. Haji Din Muhammad, assistant to Khalis Hezb-e Eslami, was also present at the meeting and took part in the talks.

Changes Planned in Radio Programming

LD2505171292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] In accordance with a decision by the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and based on a plan to transform the spirit of Radio Afghanistan's programming to Islamic values, music broadcasts by Radio Afghanistan, which accounts for 70 percent of programs is no longer acceptable. In addition, Radio Afghanistan transmitters are in poor condition as a result of considerable use and excessive loads, and also because of a shortage of spare parts necessary to maintain them properly and permit Radio Afghanistan to continue its current hours of programming.

In order to overcome the present difficulties and to met address the complaints about the broadcasting of too much music, it has been decided that as of tomorrow, 5 Jawza 1371 [26 May 1992] all present Radio Afghanistan programs should be broadcast [words indistinct] as follows: first part, starting at 0600 and ending at 0900; second Part, starting at 1200 lunchtime and ending at 1300; third part, starting at 1500 and ending at 2200.

India

Diplomat Abducted by 'Pakistani Intelligence'

Pakistani Envoy Summoned

BK2405131492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpts] In Pakistan, the counselor in the Indian High Commission, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, was forcibly abducted from outside his residence by the Pakistan secret service in Islamabad today. Three cars belonging to the Pakistan intelligence agencies blocked the counselor's car and dragged him out and pushed him into one of the waiting cars and drove him away to an unknown destination. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, the secretary in the ministry [of external affairs] Mr. L. Mehrotra summoned the Pakistani Charge d' Affaires and condemned the abduction in strong terms. India also demanded the immediate release of Mr. Mittal and called for exemplary punishment to the culprits responsible for the incident. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman described the incident as blatantly undesirable saying it was not conducive to the construction of meaningful relations between the two countries.

Diplomat Found 'Near Collapse'

BK2405125492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1235 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] A message just received says in Pakistan, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, counselor in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, who was forcibly abducted from outside his residence this morning by personnel belonging to Pakistani intelligence agency, was recovered in the local police station in a state of near collapse after being detained for over six hours and having been subjected to severe third degree torture.

Beatings, Torture Alleged

BK2405161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The abducted counselor in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was found at a local police station in a state of near collapse this evening. He was forcibly abducted from outside his residence by Pakistan intelligence personnel in the morning. Mr. Mittal was detained for six hours and subjected to third degree torture.

Our Islamabad correspondent, Surech Chopra, reports that Mr. Mittal suffered deep bruises. He was unable to walk due to repeated electric shocks administered to him. Three cars belonging to the Pakistan intelligence blocked Mr. Mittal's way as he was leaving his residence. He was pulled out of his vehicle and pushed into one of the waiting cars. He was severely beaten inside the car and driven to a jungle after being blindfolded. The counselor was taken to an interrogation center and further beaten up. He was administered repeated electric shocks after he was tied to a chair and asked to sign certain documents which he refused to oblige. Mr. Mittal fainted thrice during the interrogation. Mr. Mittal's aged father who ran to his son's rescue was physically prevented by the Pakistani intelligence men. His car was also taken away which was later found with a fake Islamabad number painted over the CD [corps diplomatique] number plate. The Indian High Commission has lodged a strong protest with the Pakistan Foreign Office over the incident. Our correspondent understands that Mr. Mittal has been declared persona non grata.

The Pakistani charge d'affairs in New Delhi was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry by the secretary East, Mr. L. Mehrotra, and conveyed India's strong condemnation of the abduction. New Delhi has also demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in the incident. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman described the incident as patently undesirable saying it was not conducive toward meaningful relations beween the two countries.

It may be recalled that in a similar incident last year, the Pakistani intelligence authorities abducted the wife of an Indian diplomat and detained her for six hours.

Mittal 'Framed' on Spy Charges

BK2505041192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] In Pakistan, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, the counselor in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, who was subjected to torture by the Pakistani intelligence agencies, has been declared a persona non grata by the Pakistan Government and asked to leave the country within 24 hours. A totally fabricated charge of Mr. Mittal having been caught receiving top secret documents from a Pakistan contact has been framed against him. No mention has been made in the official statement of the Pakistan Foreign Office of what the so- called top secret document was and who was giving it to Mr. Mittal and where. The AIR Islamabad correspondent, who visited the scene of Mr. Mittal's kidnapping by the Pakistani intelligence agencies, reports that the glass pieces of the windscreen of one of the intelligence agency's cars, which was smashed by a member of Mr. Mittal's household, are still lying on the road. Mr. Mittal's abduction and his aged father's attempts to rescue his son were also witnessed by neighbors and security guards.

Diplomatic observers in the Pakistani capital are shocked at the inhuman treatment meted out to a senior diplomat and have described the incident as outrageous and crossing all limits of decent and ethical behavior in international diplomacy.

'Barbarous' Action Condemned

BK2505051592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 May 92

[Commentary by former Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh: "Abduction of the Indian Counselor in Islamabad"]

[Text] The Pakistani secret service abducted the Indian political counselor, Rajesh Mittal, from his Islamabad home in broad daylight yesterday. They took away his car and manhandled his old father. Mittal was questioned for several hours and then returned. This kind of barbarous and uncivilized action goes against the letter and spirit of international protocols and multilateral agreements to which Pakistan should feel committed.

In recent months and years, we have seen how helpless Pakistani politicians and diplomats have seemed to be in respect of the activities and conduct of their own secret service, especially the Interservices Intelligence—ISI. Some in the Pakistani establishment say openly that the ISI is not totally and entirely answerable to either their president or their prime minister or even their army chief. This is an extraordinary state of affairs and one

who is expert in international law cannot accept in so far as the sovereign responsibility of the Pakistan Government is concerned.

This bizarre incident comes just one week before the Pakistan foreign secretary is scheduled to visit New Delhi to meet his Indian counterpart for discussing further confidence-building measures. Through this high-handed and uncivilized act, the Pakistani secret service has made no secret of their disapproval of their own government's policy to improve the climate of relations with India. In case, this incident has been committed by their political authorities, then clearly they want to wreck the process of brick-by-brick peace building in which the Narasimha Rao government has been engaged.

Clearly, Pakistan's ISI is currently frustrated by the lack of success in its Afghanistan venture. They had attempted to make Afghanistan into their satrapy, thus giving themselves some strategic depth. This has not happened; and with some political activity being restored in our Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir too, Pakistani intelligence-cum-police secret service establishments have reasons to feel frustrated. In their frustration, they are trying to be vengeful with the Indian mission in Islamabad. In the process, they are also damaging the standing and credibility of the Pakistani Government itself. They are also violating well- established norms of civilized international behavior.

Two Pakistan Diplomats Ordered Out

BK2505131292 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1235 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] India today asked two senior Pakistani diplomats to leave the country within 48 hours. Shahid Malik, acting high commissioner of Pakistan, was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and informed that the two Pakistani diplomats, (Syed Fayyaz Mahmud Endrabi) and Zafarul Hasan, have been indulging in activities clearly prejudicial to the security of India. Lodging a strong protest, The Foreign Office told the acting high commissioner that the two Pakistani diplomats have been declared as persona non grata for violating accepted diplomatic norms.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that in the face of the violent and brutal treatment meted out to a senior Indian diplomat Rajesh Mittal in Pakistan, New Delhi has conveyed to the acting Pakistani high commissioner that the two identified Pakistani diplomats should be withdrawn from India within 48 hours.

In Islamabad, India's High Commissioner to Pakistan S.K. Lamba today called on Pakistan Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan and informed him of New Delhi's decision.

Meanwhile, the condition of Islamabad-based senior Indian diplomat Rajesh Mittal continues to remain bad. As reported earlier Rajesh Mittal was kidnapped and tortured by Pakistani intelligence agents yesterday. Rajesh Mittal has been declared persona non grata in Pakistan on fabricated charges. However, a medical officer of the Indian High Commission has said that Mittal is unable to travel yet. The Indian High Commission is finalizing plan for Rajesh Mittal's departure from Islamabad.

BJP Urges 'Suitable' Retaliation

BK2505163892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded the cancellation of the next round of the foreign secretary-level talks between New Delhi and Islamabad. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said Pakistan has violated the Vienna Convention on diplomatic immunity by kidnapping and torturing [Indian diplomat] Mr. Mittal in Islamabad. He said there should be no dialogue with Pakistan unless it makes amends.

The Janata Party president, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, has urged the Center to retaliate suitable to the torture of the Indian diplomat by Pakistani intelligent agents.

President Venkataraman Returns From China Visit

'Friendly, Cordial' Talks Noted

BK2405132692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 may 92

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, returned to New Delhi today after a six-day state visit to China. He was received at the airport by the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; several of his cabinet colleagues; the three service chiefs, Chinese diplomats and other dignitaries. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Venkataraman described his visit as a positive step in improving relations between the two countries. He said we discussed many issues in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere and we have agreed to pursue it further.

'Understanding, Courtesy' Marked Talks

BK2405162992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, returned to New Delhi today after a six-day state visit to China. He was received at the airport, among others, by the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; several of his Cabinet colleagues; the three service chiefs; and Chinese diplomats.

Earlier, talking to a group of journalists on board the aircraft while returning home, Mr. Venkataraman said his visit to China is a step further in the process of improving Sino-Indian relations. He expressed the hope that this process will be speeded up in the days to come. Mr. Venkataraman said his talks with the Chinese leaders were marked with understanding and courtesy and each side respected the viewpoint of the other. The president said he found the Chinese leadership more

keen to develop economic and commercial relations including setting up of joint ventures. On the border question, Mr. Venkataraman said the Chinese leaders appreciated his suggestion to reduce forces on the border and exchange information about the movement of troops as a confidence-building measure.

He said he had apprised the Chinese premier of India's desire to improve relations with its neighbors. But, with Pakistan it has been hindered by its open asssistance to terrorists. Mr. Li Peng informed him that during his meeting with Mr. Nawaz Sharif he had conveyed New Delhi's keenness to improve relations with Islamabad and desired Pakistan to respond appropriately.

AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent I.J. Bijal, who accompanied the president, reports during his visit Mr. Venkataraman met a cross section of people and talked on matters of mutual interest.

Peaceful Border Settlement Planned

BK2405091292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] India and China have agreed to settle the boundary question through peaceful negotiations. Both sides agreed that the use or threat of use of force as a means of settlement of disputes should be firmly abjured in relations between nations. In a statement issued at the end of the president, Mr. Venkataraman's six-day state visit to China, the two countries said though the boundary issue is a complex one, they are determined to solve it peacefully. The statement noted that in this direction concrete progress is being made for confidence building between the two countries in the border areas. The statement said that India and China as the world's biggest developing countries have a special responsibility to adopt a harmonious and cohesive approach in tackling issues of concern to the developing world as a whole. The development of cooperation between the two would be a stabilizing factor in Asia and the world.

During his stay in China, the president had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional, and global issues with the Chinese president, Mr. Yang Shangkun; the general secretary of the Communist Party, Mr. Jiang Zemin; and the prime minister, Mr. Li Peng. Mr. Venkataraman and other members of the delegation are returning home later today.

U.S. Offer To Receive Satellite Data Studied

BK2205162892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] France, Germany, and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration—NASA—have offered to receive data from the Indian satellite SROSS-C launched on Wednesday [20 May] and pass it on to the Indian scientists. A scientist of the National Physical Laboratory, Dr. B.N. Reddy, told newsmen in New Delhi today that these countries have agreed to receive the data during the satellite's flight over their receiving stations. The Indian Space Research Organization is considering the offer. He said that the satellite would be visible over India only for 22 minutes during each pass.

'Critical Maneuvers' Carried Out on Satellite

BK2305130492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] The Indian Space Research Organization—ISRO—has successfully carried out critical maneuvers on the SROSS [Stretched Rohini Satellite Series]-C satellite to bring down its spin rate. An ISRO press release issued in Bangalore today said critical operations have commenced to orient the spacecraft's spin axis toward a negative orbit to enable the second payload to scan the southern celestial sky before it is switched on.

Bomb Explodes at TV Station in Tamil Nadu

BK2405080892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, a bomb exploded the Doordarshan [television] low power transmission center at (Kunjikulam) early this morning. No one was injured in the blast. Police have rushed to the spot and the investigation is on. Our Trichirappalli correspondent reports that a poster depicting the picture of Dhanu, the human bomb, who killed Rajiv Gandhi, was found at the site of the blast.

Iran

Government Reacts to Israeli Raids in Lebanon

Karrubi: U.S. Responsible for Attacks

NC2405160092 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 24 (AFP)—An Iranian official on Sunday slammed the United States for calling on the Lebanese Government to disarm the Hizballah militia, saying the Lebanese people would continue their struggle so long as their territory was occupied by Israel.

Outgoing parliamentary speaker Mehdi Karrubi, speaking at the end of one of the chamber's final sessions, also criticized "the silence of the Arab world in the face of repeated Israeli aggression against Lebanon."

He added that such silence was "a disgrace for Muslims and the Arab countries."

The comments by Karrubi, a hardliner, are the first reaction by an Iranian official to Friday's renewed call by the U.S. State Department to the Lebanese Government to disarm the pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim group.

The U.S. request came in the wake of deteriorating conditions in south Lebanon, where Israeli raids and shelling have left 14 dead and scores injured since Thursday.

Karrubi attacked the United States and its "sinister new world order," saying it was the first to be held responsible for Israeli attacks in Lebanon.

The daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, which is close to the radicals, on Sunday accused Washington of "supporting the terrorism of the Jewish state," in its quest for Jewish votes ahead of the upcoming presidential elections in the United States.

On Friday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned the Israeli raids and urged Muslim countries "to react swiftly to the blind aggression of the Zionist regime" against Lebanon.

Lebanese security sources said Hizballah killed four militiamen from the Israeli-run South Lebanon Army last Tuesday, provoking Israeli air raids on fundamentalist positions that left 13 dead and 25 wounded Thursday.

Rocket attacks from Hizballah positions on Friday prompted Israeli shelling that killed one Lebanese civilian.

Karrubi on 'Barbaric' Air Raids

LD2405170792 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi today blasted the Zionist entity for its repeated "barbaric" air raids on the defenceless villages of South Lebanon and al-Biqa' Valley and called such crimes as "ominous characteristics of the new world order".

Speaking at the open session of the parliament he called the reaction of the U.S. rulers towards the Israeli aggression on Lebanon as "bullying" and censured the silence of some Islamic and Arab states vis-a-vis the fresh Zionist crimes.

Karrubi expressed hope that the Muslim people of Lebanon would be able to throw out the Zionist enemy from their homeland through their steadfast resistance.

On the liberation anniversary of the port-city of Khorramshahr from Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors ten years ago this day, he said the victory strengthened the Islamic revolution and frustrated the enemies who were trying to undermine the revolution by their false analyses, he said.

With the recapture of the strategically important city of Khorramshahr, said the speaker, the world came to know that Iranian people are determined to liberate the occupied parts of their homeland from Ba'thist forces and are aware of safeguarding their Islamic objectives.

Foreign Ministry Deplores Loss of Lives

LD2205173892 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—A strongly worded statement issued by the Foreign Ministry here today, deplored loss of lives of a large number of civilians including elderly women and men and children in the Zionist attacks on villages in southern Lebanon and the al-Biqa' Valley.

Expressing "profound grief" over the Zionist regime's barbaric air raid on Lebanon, the statement condemned Zionist designs on Lebanese territory, and appealed to all international forums and freedom-loving countries especially the Muslim states to take a tougher stand against the Qods occupying regime.

"Such attacks are intended to weaken the morale of anti-Zionist resistance. But experience has shown that (Zionist) brutalities would only strengthen the Muslim resistance in Lebanon and Palestine," it said.

Lebanese Official Meets Construction Minister

LD2305072792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] The Lebanese agriculture minister met with our country's construction jihad minister, and—referring to the Western countries' economic blockade of Lebanon—requested that Iran send agricultural aid.

During the meeting on Thursday, Construction Jihad Minister Foruzesh also stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to continue its aid to Lebanon.

Prayers Leader on U.S. Embargo, Muslim Issues

LD2205151192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 May 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon by 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Today is the first of Khordad [22 May]. This is the day when America's economic blockade against Iran started in 1359 [1981]. So that that memory is not forgotten by others—as I have not forgotten—I have written down several of the statements of his eminence the imam [Ayatollah Khomeyni] about the American economic blockade to read to you.

In 1359, at the beginning of Khordad, they started the economic blockade against us. At the time his eminence the imam made these remarks: Those governments must be asked: the economic blockade by which you intend to corner a tyrannized nation, which world principle does it comply with? You must know that American military intervention and all of you—and your economic blockade—will have no effect on the individual members of our nation. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Death to America," and other slogans]

I will repeat a sentence he said: You should know that American military intervention and all of you and your economic sanctions will have no effect on our nation, and we are ready to die. [passage omitted] It was not Saudi Arabia that said to us: Do not come to the hajj. It was us who said: If we come to the hajj, then it must be in line with disavowal of infidels. And the troubles that occurred afterwards were due to this very same issue. If we just wanted to go there, like everyone else, just to do

the hajj and perform the norms, then these things would not have occurred. [passage omitted]

Oh brothers and sisters: today the world of Islam is facing certain problems. I do not have any more information than you. We all know the problems: Iraqi Muslims, northern Iraq, southern Iraq, the Kurds and the Shi'as, the massacres.

The problem of Afghanistan: After all this self-sacrifice, fighting, and war, it has gotten to the point where fratricide has started at the hands of the enemy.

The problem of Yugoslavia: The attack by the Federal Army, the massacre of Muslims.

The issue of Algeria with the jails, banishments, and lawlessness.

The issue of Azerbaijan. I have a little more information about that place.

Armenia—they have poured in and killed 1,500 people. They have scalped the women and chopped off the men's fingers with axes. They have begged, but no one answers their cry.

There is Palestine and Lebanon.

There is corruption everywhere; there are massacres everywhere. Muslims are plagued everywhere.

Now we are here. Now I am talking to the ulema, to the teachers, to the honorable sources of emulation, to the ulema of the Islamic world: Have we no responsibility for all this? [passage omitted]

Our government, our officials have a duty. Their work must be in accordance with world standards. It must be in accordance with their resources. We trust them and we say: God willing, they will act on all their available resources. But what about me? What about you? It was not like this before! If they bothered a Muslim in a corner of the world in the old days, everyone to their ability.... [changes thought] The issuing of statements, the condemnation. When we see that he is not a Muslim or a Shi'a, the world goes mad! If he is a Muslim, America announces: Since our interests are not in danger over there, we have nothing to say about that place. Well the United States has nothing to say, but our interests—our religious interests—are in danger.

They will not limit it [not further identified] to Azerbaijan. The new world order has hatched a major plot for everybody. Today, it has come to roost in Azerbaijan and tells them: If you want to elect a president, I along with 60 others must supervise the process. One of them is Jimmy Carter. That very Carter whom you know well. As a preliminary step, Carter is going on a supervisory mission to see whom Azerbaijan is going to elect.

They [not further identified] may be in need of help from the people. The Red Crescent is helping them as much as it can and to the extent to which it feels it must—we cannot tell it how much to help. As for the Foreign Ministry, well, it knows about the world situation and international norms according to which it must move. That is that. What I want to say now is that we also have our own duties to perform. We too must shout; we too must condemn. We must let them know that if they bullied a group, a country, a nation, or a society then at least there will be somebody—10 souls—who, if nothing else, are ready to weep for those victims.

These gentlemen have now decided to bring to life all their dreams for all parts of the world. The Islamic Republic has, from the start, proved that it is a supporter of liberation movements, the oppressed, the deprived, and those who are subjects of injustice and aggression. In Kashmir they subject the Muslims, the Shi'as, to untold tyranny; they engage in gangland murders.

We do not think we must sit and do nothing and then say that since our regime is the Islamic Republic and our officials are Muslims they know their duties and leave everything to them. Yes, they know their duties, but their movement is limited. [passage omitted]

As Muslims we have duties toward other Muslims. Of course, one's duties are in line with one's opportunities. Now if the ulema, if the Friday prayer leaders, the seminarians, the sources of emulation, and all others who are respected and trusted by the people, if they all think it is right, then they must provide help. They must help these Muslims whose territories have been usurped, who have been victims of aggression. [passage omitted]

Oil Ministry Denies Selling Oil to Yugoslavia

LD2305125992 Tehran IRNA in English 1157 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—An informed source at the Oil Ministry today refuted as "false" some foreign media reports that Iran was selling oil to Yugoslavia.

"No consignment of crude oil has been shipped from Iran to Yugoslavia over the past year," the source said.

He made it clear that as long as as Yugoslavia continues mistreating the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina it would be impossible for Iran to sell oil to that country.

Daily on Action Against Armenia's 'Aggression'

LD2505112892 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Monday urged international bodies to adopt a clear and coordinated stance vis-a-vis domination-seeking tendencies in Central Asia. Otherwise, the region will be turned into a crisis spot, directly affecting international and regional peace and security.

The editorial was referring to the recent aggression of Armenian forces on Nakhichevan and the developments in Karabakh.

The move is unacceptable and a flagrant aggression aimed at changing the geopolitics of the region. International bodies should react and make Armenian leaders realize the era of resorting to military power for violating others' territories is over.

Criticizing Moscow's support for Armenia, it said Russia could still play an impartial and mediatory role in bringing closer the viewpoints of the two belligerent parties.

Furthermore, disrespecting conditions of the Karabakh region, Moscow ordered withdrawal of troops from the region, thus giving the aggressors an opportunity to go ahead with their aggression.

Reportedly Armenian forces have deployed chemical weapons, provided by the arrogant countries. Therefore, Armenia is taking the lead in attacks of the arrogant powers against Muslims.

There is a fear that failure to stop the Armenian expansionism will enable "occupiers" to consolidate their foothold in the Islamic territory of Azerbaijan. "Such expansionist moves must be confronted seriously and effectively and this compels the international organizations to adopt a clear and coordinated stand in encountering any domination-seeking move in the Central Asia."

The outmost urgency is to stop arms shipment in order to make both [word indistinct] turn to peaceful solutions.

The Islamic world must take a clear stance so that the oppressed people of Azerbaijan would not feel isolated any [words indistinct]. Furthermore, they should be assured that they are not left alone in this unequal war in which one party is supported by certain arrogant powers.

"The oppressed people of the Azerbaijan Republic who have recently returned to Islam, must in practice feel the world of Islam is their ally. In these bitter and determining moments this feeling will come about only when they see with their own eyes that the Islamic world has risen to heal their wounds."

Velayati, Nakhichevan's Aliyev View Developments

LD2405172692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati and Geydar Aliyev, the president of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, held a telephone conversation this evening. Pointing to the Armenian forces' violation of Nakhichevan borders, Mr. Aliyev briefed our foreign minister about the latest developments in that region.

According to a Central News Unit report, in the course of this telephone conversation, which lasted one hour, the president of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan said: The Armenian forces have been deploying heavy weapons supplied by the Russians. We do not want this war to be continued and seek for calm to be restored to the region. Mr. Aliyev also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humanitarian aid to the people of Nakhichevan, and for giving transit permits to the trucks carrying Azerbaijani goods through Iran, as well as giving permission to civilian aircraft of the Republic of Azerbaijan to use Iranian airspace in order to reach Nakhichevan. He asked for this assistance to be continued.

During this telephone conversation, Mr. Velayati, for his part, expressed his regret over the violation of Nakhichevan borders and stressed: We have declared our categorical stance based on condemnation of any form of aggression against Nakhichevan territory, and to prevent it we have carried out many activities, which are still continuing.

Remarking on the Iranian people's assistance to the people of Nakhichevan, Mr. Velayati said: We are ready to establish any kind of cooperation with you, since there are no boundaries as far as ties are concerned.

The foreign minister also welcomed Mr. Aliyev's interest in visiting Iran.

Insurgents Gangs in Southern Provinces Identified

LD2505102392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 May 92

[Excerpt] In an address to the citizens of Rudab today during his tour of Hormozgan Province, Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary, confirmed that gangs of insurgents in the country's southern provinces have been identified and will soon be apprehended with the cooperation of the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Paper—Abu-Nidal Resides North of Tehran

NC2605061692 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 25 May 92 p 7

[Text] Informed Arab sources [as published] have confirmed to AL-SHIRA' that Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], leader of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, has been in Tehran for three months and that he lives in a villa north of the Iranian capital. The sources added that Tripoli requested he leave Libya before the application of the air blockade on Libya in implementation of UN Resolution 748.

AL-SHIRA' Report 'Not True'

LD2305181392 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman on Saturday refuted a claim raised by Lebanese weekly AL-SHIRA' that leader of the revolutionary Fatah Movement of Palestine Abu Nidal was in Iran.

The Lebanese weekly in its latest issue, quoting so called "informed Western sources", claimed that Abu-Nidal wanted in Western countries has been staying in a

northern Tehran neighbourhood since he was expelled from Libya three months ago.

The spokesman told IRNA by telephone that the AL-SHIRA' allegation was "not true and had no foundation".

Velayati Receives Body of Lebanon Correspondent

NC2505054592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The pure body of Martyr Behruz Falahatpur, a correspondent for Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VVIRI] sent to Lebanon to prepare a report and to film the horrific crimes being perpetrated by the Zionist regime in southern Lebanon, was flown to Tehran this morning and was officially received by Foreign Minister Velayati, Acting VVIRI Director Tabeshian, a large number of military and government officials, and the esteemed family of the martyr.

Our correspondent reports that the funeral procession will start at 1000 this morning from VVIRI's Belal Mosque and will move toward the Karaj Martyrs' Cemetery.

Falahatpur was reporting an aggressive Zionist attack several days ago and was martyred along with a number of Lebanese Muslims.

Pakistan

Foreign Office on Disappearance of Indian Diplomat

Authorities 'Investigating' Incident

BK2405113892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has reiterated Pakistan's full commitment to safeguarding immunities and privileges of foreign diplomats and counselor officers based in Pakistan. He was commenting today on the reported missing of an Indian diplomat in Islamabad. The spokesman said the Foreign Office has received complaints from the Indian High Commission and the concerned agencies and authorities are investigating the matter. He maintained that at this point, the government of Pakistan does not have details of the actual position in this matter.

Diplomat Declared Persona Non Grata

BK2405153692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Pakistan has declared Mr. Mittal, an official of the Indian High Commission, as persona non grata. The Pakistani foreign secretary summoned Indian High Commissioner S.K. Lamba and apprised him of the government's decision. Mr. Mittal was earlier caught by Pakistani security agencies while collecting highly classified documents from a Pakistani. He was identified during the police interrogation. According to police, Mr. Mittal did not disclose his identity in the beginning. He had arrived at a pre-arranged meeting place in a car with a private license plate. The Indian official was handed over to the Indian High Commission after his identity was established.

'Regret' at 'Retaliatory' Expulsions

BK2605082092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Office has expressed regret at the decision of the Indian Government to declare two senior diplomatic officials of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi as persona non grata. The spokesman said that the two diplomats were engaged in their normal function and had done nothing to merit such a drastic action by the host government. He said that reaction of the Indian Government was not just retaliatory measure.

Yesterday the Indian Government had ordered two Pakistani diplomats, Syed Fayyaz Mahmud Endrabi and Zafarul Hasan, to leave the country within 48 hours in retaliation to the expulsion on Sunday of an Indian diplomat Mr. Rajesh Mittal from Islamabad.

First Phase of Operation in Sindh Starts

Paramilitary Forces Patrol Karachi

BK2405102292 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 May 92 p 1

[Text] Karachi—The Rangers and other law-enforcing agencies have started snap checking of vehicles in Karachi Division from Saturday. The checking has been started in connection with recently announced 'operation clean-up'.

According to an ISPR [Inter Services Public Relations] Press release Rangers and other law-enforcing agencies have been directed to check and impound vehicles colour having tinted glasses, private vechicles using Army or Rangers colour having tinted glasses, private vehicles using Army or Rangers colour and vehicles having extra lights including sirens. [sentence as published]

The official announcement made it clear that all the vehicles must carry original documents. The vehicles of government officials, VVIPs and VIPs would also be checked during the campaign. They have also been ordered to carry the original documents and the drivers of these vehicles must possess their National Identity Cards. They have also been asked to replace tinted glasses of the vehicles.

The matter regarding checking of VIP cars was discussed at a highlevel meeting held at the Chief Minister House. Highly-placed sources confided to THE NATION, Army had asked Chief Minister to order all the ministers and VVIPs to remove tinted glasses from their cars.

The citizens Police Liaison Committee have advised the law- abiding citizens to cooperate with the authorities.

Meanwhile, ISPR Press release further said that vehicles violating the above mentioned instructions would be impounded and persons violating the rules will be dealt with strictly.

According to an AFP report units of paramilitary rangers patrolled Karachi on Saturday signalling the start of the first phase of an army-supervised campaign ordered by the Pakistan government to curb crime and lawlessness in Sindh province.

Rangers have also started patrolling other parts of Sindh and measures are being taken to seal the southeastern border with India ahead of what has been officially billed as a crackdown on terrorists, kidnappers and other criminals.

The government has accused India of aiding subversive elements in Pakistan's southern region, which has recently witnessed increased incidents of banditry, abduction and politically motivated violence.

Official statements have said the army would use an 18,000-strong ranger force to restore order, without giving any further details.

The patrolling came after the Military's Public Relations Department here annouced of Friday that the Rangers would check vehicles on the roads.

Vehicles without valid documents, equipped with extra lights or sirens, or painted to look like those of army or rangers would be impounded, the announcement said.

Sources said checking was postponed by a day, while long queues were seen at the offices for clearing road tax dues and completing documents.

Sosurces said the force would hunt down bandits and gangs involved in kidnappings and search for illegal weapons.

Meanwhile, Rangers and other law enforcing-agencies have entered forests in the interior of sindh. The aim of the operation is to flush out the dacoits from their hideouts in these forests in Katcha aren of Indus river. They are armed with latest automatic weapons.

The operation is being controlled by the armed forces and undertaken through the police and rangers.

The borders with India are being sealed and Sindh government is contemplating to seal its border with Punjab and Balochistan to prevent these elements to escape to these provinces. According to reports armed forces assigned to undertake the cleanup operation, have already established their posts in the forests have started pursuit of the dacoits.

There are reports of clashes between the dacoits and law enforcement-agencies and in one encounter two dacoits are said to have been killed.

People are praying for the success of the army action in the interior of Sindh. The Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, is husy in meeting people and building bridges between the government and other political leaders including his coalition partner MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]. Pakistan Peoples Party has also welcomed this operation. The leaders of public opinion. However, have asked the government to take the National Asembly into confidence.

India Said Involved in Unrest

BK2405145792 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Ghaus Ali Shah, has said the action against dacoits [robbers], terrorists, and criminals in Sindh is not being undertaken under Article 245 of the Constitution. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the defense minister said the action in Sindh to improve the law and order situation is being taken in consultation with the Sindh Government. P[illegible] said there is a serious law and order situation in Sindh. Therefore, the Mehran Force, comprising frontier and Balochistan Constabulary, has been pressed into service in aid of the provincial security agencies. Mr. Ghaus Ali Shah said the action is good and its results will be positive.

The defense minister said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, loves the people of Sindh. He has always been concerned about the prevailing law and order situation in the province. The prime minister consulted ministers from Sindh on Thursday [21 May] about the operation.

Replying to a question as to when the action will start in Sindh, the defense minister said it depends on the chief minister of Sindh. Replying to another question, he was of the view that the action will start both in urban and rural areas.

Replying to another question, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said according to our information, India is involved in creating the present situation in Sindh Province.

Efforts To Achieve Energy Self-Sufficiency Noted

BK2505163492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said that Pakistan's nuclear program is designed to meet its pressing energy requirements and to derive other associated benefits with the development in the use of nuclear technology. The president was inaugurating the 10-megawatt nuclear research reactor at a ceremony held to mark the silver jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology [PINSTECH] near Islamabad today. Highlighting the objective of peaceful nuclear program, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Pakistan's quest for acqusition of modern technology is motivated solely by its desire to modernize its society, develop national resources, accelerate.... [announcer's voice fades into Ishaq Khan recording]

[Begin Ishaq Khan recording] [Words indistinct] with its commitment to nonproliferation, Pakistan will not transfer sensitive nuclear technology to a third country.

A program is designed to meet our pressing energy requirements and to derive other benefits associated with the development in use of nuclear technology. It would be unfair and unrealistic to expect Pakistan to unilaterally forego the development of its peaceful nuclear program and capabilities in response to so-called nonproliferation pleas. We deem it a sovereign right of nations to develop the entire gamut of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. However, we have taken a political decision to use this technical capability for peaceful purposes only. [applause] [end recording]

He said Pakistan does not believe in the spread of fire. Pakistan is among the first nations to support the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Its commitment to nonproliferation even today is no less serious and genuine than anybody else's. He said Pakistan believes that the cherished and noble goal of nonproliferation must not degenerate into essay in evolving a technical fix or ploy to eternize technological imperialism denying the fruits of science to those who generally want to use them for peaceful purposes.

Earlier, the director of PINSTECH, Dr. (N.M. Bhat) said that the entire upgradation and rebuilding of the reactor was completed in a period of one year and would serve as a major facility for next 25 years.

The chairman of Pakistan Energy Commission, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, in his address of welcome said the commission is making intensive efforts to develop the necessary infrastructure and enhance capability for achieving self-reliance in the designing, engineering, and manufacture of nuclear power plants. The president awarded four gold medals to the outstanding scientists for their contribution in nuclear research at PINSTECH. They are: Mr. Khalid Mahmud Akhtar, Dr. Hamid Ahmad Khan, Mr. Ghulam Hussain, and Mr. Asif Usman. The president also conferred 82 awards on the scientistis, engineers, and other persons who rendered meritorious services in research.

The president inaugurated the 10-megawatt nuclear research reactor to mark the completion of 25 years of scientific activities at PINSTECH.

Nuclear Facility Redesigned, Upgraded

BK2405145292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Scientists and engineers of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission have successfully designed and upgraded the five megawatt research reactor at the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology—PINSTEC—the silver jubilee of which is being celebrated tomorrow. In an interview with PTV correspondent Sarwar Munir Rauf, the chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad, spoke about PINSTEC.

[Begin Ashfaq Ahmad recording] The main facility here, as you know, was a five megawatt research reactor which was made available to us in 1966. It was nearing the end of its design life and we thought that we should work and build a new reactor in the same (?set of) structure. And we have, therefore, designed and built a reactor which is now going to operate at 10 megawatts and will remain available for another 20 to 25 years. I can say that PINSTEC is not only one of the important research centers in the entire Third World but it has no parallel in the entire Islamic world [end recording].